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AGAWAM Advertiser News

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Agawam Football 14

INSIDE

Families 19
Business 18
Education 10
Public Safety 9
Sports 14
Classifieds 20

24 PAGES

Exhibiting sportsmanship, humanitarianism

AHS runners help competitor following seizure

By Mike Lydick
Turley Publications Correspondent

Agawam High School cross country runner Gina Lopez had just entered a clearing during a race through Robinson State Park against Belchertown High School when she saw something bright orange on the ground. It was a Belchertown runner.

"I realized something was wrong," recalled Lopez, 17, a junior. Fear surged through her upon seeing a boy sprawled motionless on the course during the Sept. 10 meet. "I was afraid he had died. I had no idea then he had suffered a seizure. He was completely still and unresponsive."

She yelled to her teammates to stay with him – and then AHS's number two runner took off to alert parents and coaches waiting for the girls' and boys' teams from both schools.

At about the same time, AHS runner Sandra Land arrived. Belchertown team members informed her he had suffered a seizure. Land, 16, also a junior, quickly took charge. A fan of TV medical shows, she said that helped her remain calm.

"I just did what doctors do on TV. 'Grey's Anatomy' is one of my favorite shows and they deal with a lot of difficult situations," she said. "Staying calm is very important to avoid making a situation worse than it is. I had a plan and I didn't deviate from it – even though I was nervous inside."

She examined his head for bruises, bumps, or bleeding, but found none. His breathing was shallow and his pulse rate hovered between the 50s and low 60s. Land scooped him up and with help from Belchertown and Agawam students moved him to a shady area.

Turley Publications photo by Mike Lydick

AHS juniors Sandra Land and Gina Lopez (right) talk with William Dillon, their cross country coach, during a practice session.

Using her running shirt to keep his neck steady, she put her fingers in his mouth, pushing his swollen tongue down and out of his airway to prevent choking. His pupils were fixed and he wasn't responding. "I called out, asking him to move. I begged him to do something so I would know he was okay," she recalled. Finally he moved a finger. His breaths were still very shallow, but he had responded ever so slightly.

Meanwhile, Lopez had alerted coaches and a group of parents at the race's halfway point. She started to lead the coach to boy's location. Only when she was assured that he could find him, did she resume the race.

Finally, after 19 "agonizing" minutes, the boy's coach arrived. Land guided them out of the woods to the road to wait for paramedics, then ran back to lead paramedics to the boy.

Lopez – one of the team's top runners – was unable to make up the time and Agawam lost the race. But that wasn't important to Lopez or Land.

"I made a decision that helping someone was more important than a high school cross country race," said Lopez. "I would hope that someone would do the same thing for me. No competition is that important. I saw someone in need of help and that became my focus."

Added Land, "I just did what I thought would be the most helpful and appropriate response given the situation."

William Dillon, the team's coach, said he was proud of Lopez and Land as well as other students

Please see RUNNERS, page 3

ADOG awarded $245,000 grant

Funds to be used toward dog park at Shea Field

By Sarah Platanitis
Turley Publications Correspondent

The town of Agawam has been chosen by the Stanton Foundation to receive a grant for the proposed Agawam Dog Park.

"We have been working on the dog park for a while," said Deborah Dachos, director of Planning and Community Development. "The Stanton Foundation notified the town of funds available. Not every municipality receives it so it was a great privilege to be chosen."

According to Dachos, the grant will provide 95 percent of the hard construction costs for the park, a total budgetary cost of $245,209, which was based on the conceptual design by Peter Wells of the Berkshire Design Group.

The remaining percentage will be raised by the Agawam Dog Owners Group (ADOG) and a town match from the Community Preservation Act (CPA).

"We are close to the $10,000 mark and expect to reach it by the end of October," said Debbi Sanchez, president of ADOG.

Upcoming ADOG fundraisers that will help the group reach its goal include intuitive spirit medium Lisa Marie Lanno Oct. 17 at Crestview Country Club; a King

Please see ADOG, page 5

School track and field subject of discussion

CPA funds sought for master plan

By Jennifer Wroblewski
Staff Writer

CITY COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

AGAWAM — The track at Agawam High School – which has long been in a state of disrepair – is being targeted for Community Preservation Act funding to create a master plan for its rehabilitation and restoration.

The city council will, at its next meeting, discuss a resolution to appropriate $20,000 in funds from CPA to benefit the high school track and field, which Councilor George Bitzas has criticized as being an "embarrassment" in the past.

During recent years, the Agawam High School track and field team has been unable to hold home track meets and the bleachers used to watch many sports on the lighted field has fallen into disrepair. The track is currently graveled surrounding the lighted multi-use field used for football, soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey.

Last year, an amendment to the Community Preservation Act (CPA) brought forth new rules that allow CPA funds to be utilized on existing park facilities. Bitzas was a staunch supporter of the bill, which was sponsored by state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick.

Please see COUNCIL, page 5

Candidate statements inside

AGAWAM — Last week, we announced that we would be running free candidate statements for individuals running in the November election in the Sept. 26 edition.

According to the Turley Publications election policy, which runs on page 4 of each edition, each candidate is allowed a 350-500 word statement that includes biographical and campaign platform details.

Included inside this week's edition is our Election 2013 package comprised of those announcements submitted by the Sept. 23 deadline. Any candidate who did not submit a statement is not included inside.

For more information about your election candidates, turn to page 6.

Kiwanis Club to host open house

The Kiwanis Club of West Springfield and Agawam, a service organization of professional men and women interested in making their communities a better place, will host an open house Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 6 p.m. at the Monte Carlo Restaurant in West Springfield.

Community initiatives sponsored by Kiwanis include the Key Clubs at both West Springfield and Agawam High schools, scholarships to graduating seniors at both high schools, the annual bicycle rodeo and holiday giving programs in both communities.

The club is part of a worldwide network of service organizations making local and worldwide impacts, including Kiwanis International's initiative with UNICEF - the Eliminate Project - to eliminate neonatal tetanus throughout the world.

For individuals interested in joining a service organization to make a difference and build fellowship with club members and in their communities, the Kiwanis Club of West Springfield and Agawam provides that opportunity. Anyone that lives or works in West Springfield or Agawam is welcome to join the club at the open house to learn more about the club's activities.

For more information, call 209-0369.

Attic sale to aid in preservation of Agawam landmark

The Trustees of the historic Captain Charles Leonard House in Agawam will conduct an Attic Sale and Bake Shoppe Saturday, Oct. 19. The sale will take place on the property, at 663 Main St., from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., and will feature china, silver, crystal, linens, small furniture, Christmas items, antiques, and other items. A selection of baked goods prepared by house trustees will also be available. All proceeds will be used toward the preservation of the Agawam landmark, which has served as Agawam's Community House since 1939.

The Captain Leonard House is just a short walk from Veterans Green, the location of the Rotary Club's Harvest Festival, which is also taking place that day.

Many of the items offered at the sale come from the collections of the Board of Trustees and other pieces have been sourced especially for the sale.

Also offered for sale will be a literal piece of the house. Shutters that were removed from the house during its 2008-2010 renovation will be for sale. The shutters can be fastened together to create a screen, hung as decoration, or used for their intended purpose, as shutters. The shutters date from the late 19th to early-mid 20th century.

There will also be something for local history buffs. Copies of Captain Leonard House Trustee David Cecchi's three books, "Agawam and Feeding Hills," "Agawam and Feeding Hills Revisited," and "Riverside Park" will be offered for sale in time for early holiday shopping.

Parking for the Attic Sale is available at the Captain Charles Leonard House.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Where is it?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we'll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.

Turley Publications photo by Kimberly Hatch

Have you seen this holy statue standing somewhere in town?

Last week's photo: High Meadow Road, Agawam.

*All leases are for 24/27 months, 10k miles per year with $2999 down plus 1st payment due at signing. All leases require tier1 or 2 credit with Chrysler Capital. Taxes, Registration and Documentation fees are additional. Vehicles in ad are subject to prior sale. All rebates to dealer. All leases include Conquest Lease Cash or Returning Lessee Lease Cash - 0% APR financing in lieu of rebates. See dealer for final details. Dealership not responsible for typographical errors/ misprints. Offer expires 9/30/13.

AHS runners help competitor

RUNNERS, from page 1

who showed concern for a fellow runner. "Their reactions were instinctive because what happened was totally unexpected. Gina and Sandra took actions on their own because they're compassionate young ladies who have been brought up by caring parents. They know good sportsmanship is a high priority in this cross country program."

Jason Woodcock, the Belchertown High School cross country team coach, was very appreciative that Lopez and Land stopped to aid his runner (whom he did not want identified). He praised their actions in an email to AHS Principal Steve Lemanski several days after the incident. Woodcock called Lopez's decision to run for help "noble and humanitarian."

He also praised Land for staying with the runner until help arrived.

"She had been with him for some time and had taken care of him to the best of her abilities," he wrote. "Other girls, from both teams, also stopped to help, but the efforts of Gina and Sandra stood out." He told Lemanski, "You should be very proud of their actions. They represented your school in the truest manner of sportsmanship and humanitarianism."

Lemanski, who read Woodcock's email during morning announcements last week, said the behavior and actions of Lopez and Land, along with the coach's email "were very uplifting" to him.

"I'm so proud of what they did," he said. "We work diligently on character building at AHS. I would like our school to take credit for Gina's and Sandra's actions, but we can't. Both young ladies are of strong character. Their parents deserve all the credit."

Michael and Lizet Land called their daughter "an amazing young lady" who demonstrated "extreme strength and kindness" during a stressful situation.

"She wasn't thinking about herself in that moment, she was just doing the right thing," said her mother who attended the race, but was unaware of what occurred until the end.

"I'm very proud that my daughter did the right thing and kept her calm," added her father.

AHS juniors Sandra Land and Gina Lopez (right) chat with some of their teammates on the girls' cross country team during a practice session.

Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick

Gina Lopez and Sandra Land – both juniors on AHS girls' cross country team – won praise from an opposing team's coach for their "sportsmanship and humanitarianism" during a recent meet. Their calm and quick-thinking actions helped one of his boys' team runners after he became unconscious following a seizure during a cross country meet.

ADOG schedules upcoming fundraisers

The Agawam Dog Owners Group will host the following fundraising events.

Lisa Lanno-Psychic Spirit Medium "Messages from the Other Side" - Thursday, Oct 17, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Crestview Country Club, Shoemaker Lane, Agawam. Experience the evening with Lisa as she shares two hours of spirit connections and a "psychic auestion" segment. Receive validations and messages from loved ones who have passed with random audience readings. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with a cash bar. Tickets are $25 per person. Come early and have dinner at the View Restaurant and enjoy 10 percent off your entree.

Salem Spooktacular Bus Trip - Sunday, Oct. 27. The bus will leave Dave's Pet Food parking lot at 7 a.m. and will depart from Salem at 5 p.m. There is no set agenda, see Salem "on your own." Tickets are $40 and include driver's tip and a map of Salem, just in time for Halloween.

Tickets for both events are available at www.agawamdogpark.com, by calling Debbi Sanchez at 374-4684, or in person at Southgate Liquors next to Geissler's on Suffield Street.

ASBAC kicks off season with social media workshops

The Agawam Small Business Assistance Center (ASBAC) will hold its first two workshops Wednesday, Oct. 2 and Wednesday, Oct. 9. Social media is not the new kid on the block anymore. It has redefined the neighborhood. Learn the best practices, rules and tips for content creation for the most popular social media platforms.

Both workshops will be presented by Jodie Lynn Boduch, president of Much Ado Marketing. Boduch specializes in social media marketing, training, copywriting communications and content creation in many different forms of media. She holds an MBA from Clark University, Brown University, and Providence College. She also holds a BA from Providence College.

The workshops are free and open to the public. If you are a business owner or are planning to open a business, you need to attend these seminars. Social media platforms are fun and easy and are the new way that customers buy and use products and services.

The workshops will be held at the Agawam Senior Center at 954 Main St. from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. There is plenty of free parking in the back. Although admission is free, advance registration is required. To register, visit http://www.asbac.net/ or call (413) 786-0172 and leave a message. Indicate if you are planning to attend one or both workshops.

These workshops are made possible by the support of Columbia Gas, Berkshire Bank Charitable Foundation, Easthampton Savings Bank, Hampden Savings Bank, TDBank, United Bank, Western Mass Electric Company and West of the River Chamber of Commerce.

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The Historic Thomas Smith House
COMING EVENTS
251 North West Street, Agawam

Saturday, September 28th, 1-4pm
Our 4th Annual Apple Pie Contest:
Prizes will be awarded. For additional information please see our website at thethomassmithhouse.com or contact Judy at 786-6315. House Tours.
Cancelled due to lack of registration.

Friday, October 25th, 6-8pm
Our 3rd Annual Stars, Serenade & Stone Soup Candlelight Evening
Experience the 1700's by candlelight.
Enjoy the period music.
Enjoy hearth cooked stone soup and warm muffins while listening to the story of "Stone Soup".

All events are free to the public and sponsored by the Hampden Bank Charitable Foundation

Opinion

Do your homework this election season

Drive through Agawam these days and you're bound to notice one thing: candidate signs for those individuals running in the November election dotting the side of the roads. It's right around this time of year that it becomes glaringly apparent that it's time for us – as taxpayers – to start doing our homework and researching the candidates who will eventually represent us.

It was with that in mind that we solicited from those candidates statements to appear in today's edition of *Agawam Advertiser News.* Included in the candidate statements is biograhical information as well as campaign platform details from the candidates themselves.

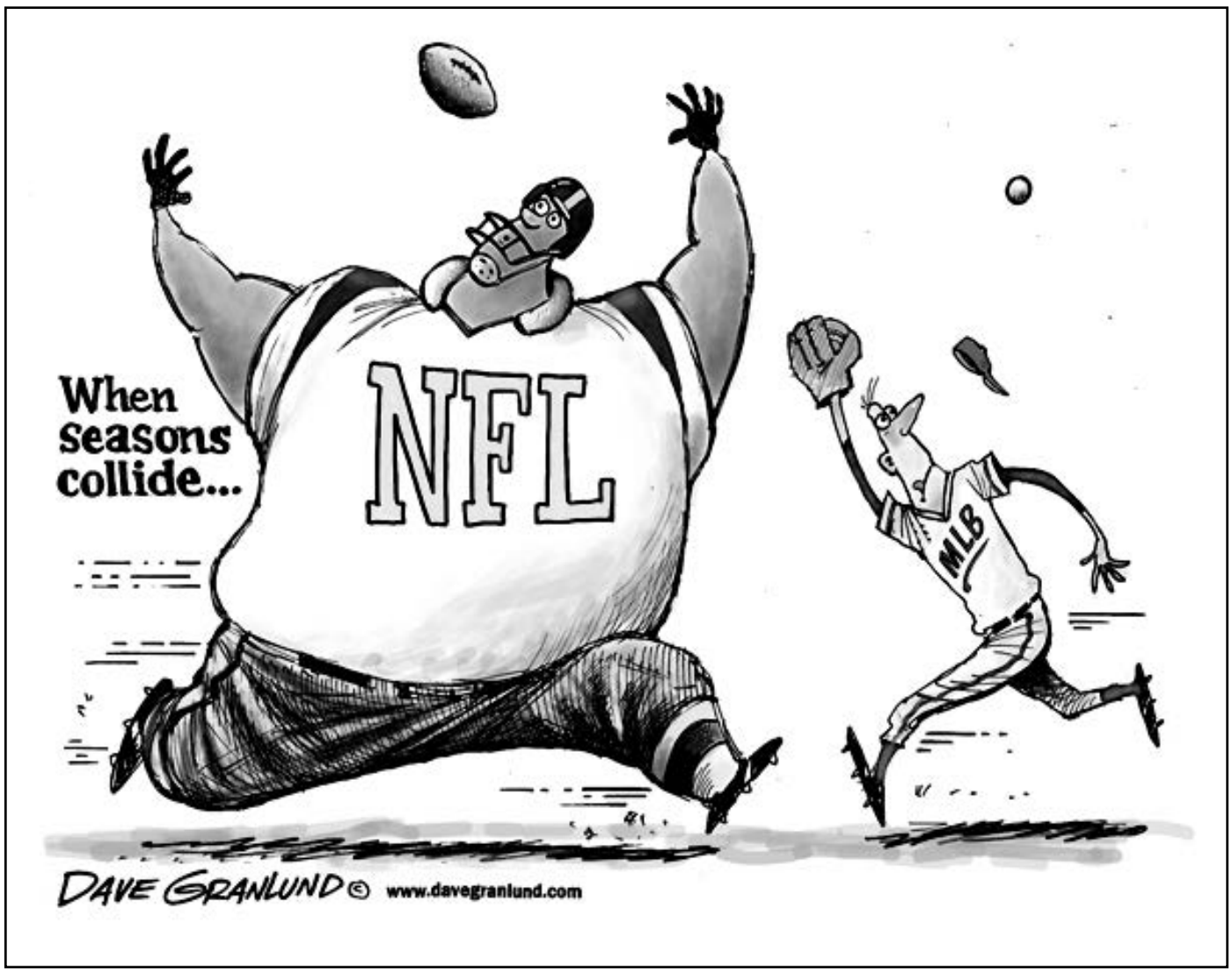
But readers – and voters – beware: the candidates who appear in our special Election 2013 compilation are only those who took us up on the offer to submit something. Not everyone who will appear on the ballot Nov. 5 is included within our pages this week.

While we do our best to provide our readers with as much information as possible, we can only do so much. Ultimately, learning about the election candidates – and what they do or do not stand for – falls on you, the voters. After all, these are the people who will be representing you in town government.

This week marks the only time candidates will be offered the opportunity to run an editorial announcement within our pages. Over the next few weeks (until one week before the election), we will gladly run your letters to the editor in support of a candidate. As per our Letters to the Editor policy, submissions should be under 300 words and sent to aan@turley.com. The candidates themselves will be exempt from running a letter regarding their campaign.

As always, be sure to check our advertisements each week as a number of candidates have already begun using ad space to communicate directly with you.

We hope you'll find this information beneficial in your planning for the upcoming election. For more information about who will appear on the ballot in November, contact the office of City Clerk Richard Theroux at 786-0400, ext. 8744.



Letters to the Editor

'From my heart to yours'

To the editor:

I would like to thank everyone who so generously helped to make Operation Tanya such a huge success. I had my procedure on June 18 in California and am feeling stronger every day. None of this would have happened without the support of family, friends, and especially you! I am humbled beyond words at the generosity of everyone. From my heart, I thank everyone for your well wishes, prayers, encouragement and support.

Special thanks to all the businesses that generously donated the basket makers, ticket-takers, dessert bakers, and the rock stars who held my hand throughout. Forever in my heart.

Tanya Pugliano
Agawam

'Civil War Afternoon' a success thanks to many

To the editor:

The Board of Trustees would like to thank everyone who helped make our recent "Civil War Afternoon" a success – those who baked, those who helped organize, and especially those who attended in support of Agawam's Community House.

The weather cooperated and a lovely afternoon was had by all. Members of the Peter Brace Brigade, representing the Mass. 54th Colored Troops Co. E, set up camp in front of the house. On the side lawn of the house, in the shade of our ancient maple trees, the Small Planet Dancers presented the "Civil War Ballroom in full period attire. The finale of the program was the Grand March, in which the audience participated to the delight of everyone.

Thank you again. We hope to see you at the house soon. Our third annual Benefit Craft Beer and Wine Tasting is taking place Friday, Oct. 18.

Board of Trustees
Captain Charles Leonard House

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AGAWAM Advertiser News

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2013 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy combined together in a special issue four weeks out from a primary or general election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details 5-6 weeks before the election. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy after that special election coverage issue. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our Advertising Representative at John Baskin at 786-7747 or jbaskin@turley.com. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per candidate during the election season. They may be sent to aan@turley.com. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

As a hometown newspaper, state, county and federal candidates in contested races who reside privately in our main coverage town(s) are offered one staff written feature story at the time of their official announcement appearing at least two months before the election date. However, these same hometown candidates aren't allowed to submit a separate candidate statement or listing in our special election edition. If a state or federal candidate living in our direct coverage town(s) is running in an uncontested race, no feature story interview will be granted. That information will be included in the general story that runs the week before the election. That story contains general information, including the names of all the candidates who will appear on the ballots and polling information.

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.

The lost sheep

FAITH MATTERS

HARVEY HILL
ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Question: What do you call a shepherd who leaves 99 sheep to go in search of a single lost sheep? Answer: A bad shepherd.

And yet that is what Jesus says God is like. When some Pharisees and scribes complain that Jesus "welcomes sinners and eats with them," Jesus tells them this parable. "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the 99 in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who need no repentance" (Luke 15:1-7).

What are we to make of that? It all depends on where we think we fit in the parable.

Are we one of the 99 sheep left in the wilderness to fend for ourselves while our shepherd goes off after a straying brother or sister? If so, this parable is not good news. And all that joy in heaven over our repentant brother or sister is positively irritating.

The Pharisees and scribes to whom Jesus told this parable probably heard it just that way. After all, they were the righteous ones who were too good to welcome sinners and eat with them.

But if we identify with the sheep that has wandered away, this parable is shockingly good news.

A lone sheep wandering in the wilderness has no chance. No rational shepherd would leave 99 sheep to go after one. The potential loss is too great. After all, one sheep is basically as good as another. The lost sheep is doomed.

Unless God is our shepherd. In God's eyes, we are not interchangeable sheep. God sees each one of us as a beloved child who is worth chasing down. That is good news.

Still, what about the 99? What about the Pharisees and scribes and all those "righteous persons who need no repentance"? Are they out of luck? After all, no sheep is safe in the wilderness without a shepherd, not even ninety-nine of them together.

Well, whom do you know who is so righteous that they truly need no repentance? Who can claim to be truly without sin?

This parable challenges the Pharisees and scribes of Jesus' day, and those among us today who rely on our own righteousness, to think again about just how righteous they are. They - maybe I should say, we - are lost and do not even know it.

The lesson of this parable is ultimately good news for all of us. We are all lost sheep, even if many of us are not inclined to admit it. But none of us are left to struggle in the wilderness alone. Thanks be to God!

Agawam city council notebook

COUNCIL, from page 1

The track was first looked at in 2008 as part of Mayor Richard A. Cohen's Capital Improvement Plan. Back then, it had a price tag of about $2.2 million and included the installation of a new track and new bleachers for Harmon A. Smith Field, he said.

Last fall, Cohen put together a Track Facility Exploratory Committee that included Bitzas, Parks and Recreation Director Christopher Sparks and Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton. That committee has determined that a master plan needs to be developed to determine the appropriate course of action in rehabilitating and restoring the high school track and field facility.

In June, the town received word that Milone & MacBroom Inc. (MMI) developed a plan that would include a new track surrounding a new football/soccer synthetic or natural grass field; new field lighting; baseball field improvements; reconstruction of existing tennis and basketball courts; new bleacher systems, concessions, restrooms and ticket facilities; a new female team room and potential locker room renovations.

MMI estimates that project costs attached to the initial project investigation, schematic design and feasibility and investment study will total $20,000 according to a June 19 memo to Cohen.

The Community Preservation Committee has recommended the appropriation and expenditure of $20,000 from CPA undesignated fund balance to create the master plan.

The council will vote on the matter at its Oct. 7 meeting.

Emergency transportation

In other council news, a resolution to enter into an understanding with PVTA for emergency transportation was again tabled by the council at its meeting Sept. 16.

While Bitzas urged the council to act on the resolution, arguing that the council has spent too much time thinking about it and "it's about time to act," other councilors expressed frustration at the vague answers they've received to questions they've asked in the past.

Although the PVTA to date has not billed any communities for emergency transport, Councilor Robert Rossi pointed out that that did not mean they wouldn't.

Likewise, Councilor Gina Letellier said the information the council was provided "raises more questions than it answers.

"I guess that it's some comfort that they haven't billed anybody, but it's a 10-year contract," Letellier said. She questioned whether or not the town would be able to sign on for just a few years instead.

"Why can't simple questions be answered," she asked. "I don't think we're doing our job unless we're doing something in the best interest of the town."

Councilor Robert Magovern called the agreement "totally vague" and said "we have to have concrete answers to our questions."

"This is something that is good," said Council Vice President Dennis Perry. "I think we need to try to get answers from PVTA and figure this thing out."

Joseph Mineo said he was in favor of the resolution but reiterated his fellow councilors' concerns.

"I'm in favor of this...but I don't think we need to rush this. We need to take our time, see if we can get our questions answered and take it from there."

The vote to table the measure was 8-3 with councilors Donald Rheault, Christopher Johnson and Bitzas casting the dissenting votes.

Lioness plan Mohegan Sun trip

The Agawam Lioness Club will host a trip to Mohegan Sun, Sunday, Nov. 10, which is open to the public. Anyone interested in going is asked to be at the Agawam High School parking lot at noon. The bus will depart at 12:30 p.m., or sooner if everyone is there. The bus will arrive back at Agawam High School at 8:15 p.m.

The cost of the trip is $30 per person, which includes bus driver's tip, a $15 food voucher and a $15 free bet.

Proceeds from this trip will be used for the various charities the Agawam Lioness Club supports. Early reservations are encouraged as this is a popular trip and seats are limited.

For reservations, call Pat at 786-1782 or Rose at 786-5134.

ADOG awarded $245,000 grant

ADOG, from page 1

Ward bus trip to Salem Oct. 27; and a Community Day Fundraiser with Bonton coupon booklets in November.

The match funding item is on the agenda for the next Community Preservation Act Committee meeting. If the public vote is yes, the next step will be to take the vote to Agawam City Council for approval.

"We can't proceed until we have authorization from the city council to accept funds from the town match," said Dachos.

Dachos hopes that funding will be secured by the end of October with preparation of design plans and a request for three construction bids taking place during the winter months. If all goes well, the proposed dog park could break ground in spring 2014.

If the CPA Committee turns down the town match, Dachos said she will then discuss the idea of alternative funding sources with Agawam Mayor Richard A. Cohen.

"Two criteria for Stanton Foundation grant eligibility is that the park must be on town-owned property and show a commitment by town to maintain it," said Dachos, of the application that has strong community and mayoral support.

"The good thing about the grant is that they offer up to $11,000 a year for three years to cover additional amenities and incidental items that weren't anticipated during original construction," said Dachos.

The Stanton Foundation also awarded an initial design grant for any needed surveys, schematics, preliminary plans, bid documents and construction observation. Any unused balance can be retained by the town to pay for future capital needs at the park.

"We are very excited to learn of the grant from the Stanton Foundation that they support such endeavors as dog parks in communities and they realize the value that dog parks play in a community," said Sanchez. "We're equally excited that the town supports the idea of having a dog park and are looking forward to working in conjunction with them both in fulfilling our mission of creating an off-leash park in town."

For more information about the Stanton Foundation grant for the proposed Agawam Dog Park, email planning@agawam.ma.us or call 786-0400 ext. 8738.

For more information about the Agawam Dog Owners Group and upcoming events, visit agawamdogpark.com or search "Agawam Dog Park" on Facebook. ADOG meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at Agawam Public Library.

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Election 2013

Compiled by Jennifer Wroblewski
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: In accordance with our Election Policy, which runs weekly inside Agawam Advertiser News, we solicited candidate statements from individuals who are running in the upcoming town election, scheduled for Nov. 5. The following are the statements we received from those candidates on deadline.

CITY COUNCIL

George Bitzas

Today, I am announcing my candidacy for re-election to the Agawam City Council.

It is a great pleasure and honor to work for the people of Agawam as city councilor, I am very proud of my many accomplishments. I feel that my record and actions speak for themselves, and the people of Agawam are well aware and pleased with my actions and accomplishments. I pledge, again, to continue to be vocal, active and to work with others

to support our children's education and public safety. I will continue to work to maintain the best town services, expand the streets and sidewalk repairs – while being mindful of keeping our taxes low. I supported and voted in favor to reduce the small business tax rate on personal property, helping to keep small business in our town to and employ our citizens. I also supported the tax incentives to attract new business to in the redeveloped Food Mart area and in other places in our community. I voted and supported property tax exemption for the elderly that are in need and in danger of losing their homes in these depressed economic times. I have always voted for the lowest residential tax rate to help our resident tax bills remain the lowest possible in the Pioneer Valley. This year, I sponsored a resolution opposing tax increases by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I also sponsored a resolution opposing the state cuts to local aid which will result in reduction in our town services.

We must continue working together to improve the senior services – enabling our growing senior population to enjoy their lives. We have the best senior center, and I am proud of the work I did as vice president/chair of the Building Committee in the planning, designing and construction of the center. I was honored, proud and happy to receive the prestigious Andrew Gallano Award from the Agawam Council on Aging for diligent, meritorious and selfless service to our Agawam seniors.

I am both excited and pleased to be a proponent of building a new track and sports facility at Agawam High School. I strongly support the work of the Agawam Track Committee, of which I am a member, in an effort to move this much-needed and desired project forward. As chairman of the parks and recreation committee, I worked hard for acquisition, planning and construction of the School Street Park for the residents of Agawam to enjoy.

I am a strong supporter and advocate of veterans and their issues. They served our country to protect our freedom, and they deserve our support and appreciation. I strongly opposed the closing of the Soldier's Home utilized by our deserving veterans when the state proposed cutting their budget. This cut will have been devastating to those veterans receiving services they need and earned fighting for our freedom. I am very proud to receive the prestigious Outstanding Foreign-Born Citizens award from the Massachusetts American Legion.

I am a graduate of Westfield State College, and I taught in West Springfield public schools. I am married to Margaret Bitzas – a second-grade teacher at Clark School in Agawam, and we have three children and two grandchildren. I am proud to be your city councilor in serving our community.

Peter Boadry

Campaign platform:
• CPA on the ballot: I helped get the signatures
• Charter review needs to be revised
• New books for the schools

• I will not pass the barn project; too much wasteful spending of taxpayers' money
• If, in fact, you need change, you need to change the faces on this council; they will not pass any of this.
• There's eight new people running. Vote for change and let's not keep them a lifetime.
• You won't ever see change unless you vote for it.

Education:
STCC nominated for distinguished grad.
MCDI Computers and Office Management
H&R Block Tax School
Real Estate School
U.S. Army
Beautification committee - second three year term
Disability committee public relations – one term
Friends of the senior center
Owned and operated businesses
MDA Chairman 10 years at Ames, first in area, TV last two times represented area stores.

Billy Chester

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Billy Chester and I reside at 320 Barry St., Feeding Hills with my wife, Helen. I am seeking the office of city councilor.

I was born and grew up in the mid west. Upon graduating from high school, I enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving from 1960 to 1965, during which time I met my future wife. Upon discharge, I returned to Massachusetts and married.

While working full time and raising a family, I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration attending 10 years in the evening division of American International College. Having spent my career in the administrative field, I am retired.

I am pro-business and believe we should do everything to support business and industry to the extent that they do not hinder the surrounding environment. Some of the concerns residents have expressed and I will support are:

• The Community Preservation Act being put on the ballot, which will give the taxpayers of Agawam their right to vote on its continuation.
• The School Street Barn should be stabilized for safety only and used as a museum.
• Any town employee who does not reside in Agawam should not be able to express their approval or disapproval of the city or school budgets at any council meeting.
• Line item budget breakdown to be presented to the council.
• Review and update the town charter.
• Reduce the council from 11 members to nine members.
• Retain current two-year terms
• Replace the current at-large representation to precinct representation and at large representations with precinct taking priority and balance filled with at large.
• Continuation of the sewer project in Feeding Hills without creating an ordinance of mandatory sewer hook up.
• The first $25,000 property evaluation be exempt from property taxation each year for senior citizen 70 years and older.

Being born and growing up in the midwest, I am not an Agawam native, but your average resident and taxpayer of Agawam. In fact, I have not held any political office. I am obligated to no one but you, the people of Agawam. I ask for your vote and the opportunity to serve as your council member.

Gina Letellier

It has been my honor to serve the citizens of Agawam as "Your City Councilor" and I ask for your vote again on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Agawam continues to face difficult budget choices. I will continue my commitment to ensuring that our limited resources are well spent. This is evidenced by the budget hearings during which I scrutinize the proposed budget and the annual spending and question department heads about unspent monies. At the 2011 budget hearing, I made the motion to cut the reserve fund to restore $250,000 to the school budget. I was able to do this because of my careful analysis. I determined that there was excess unspent monies from 2010 which would be carried over into 2011. As a parent, I know how vital it is to ensure that our schools have what they need to give our children the best education possible. At this year's budget hearing I again identified millions in free cash that could be used to cut the budget and I voted to cut the budget knowing those monies would be available. In fact, the state has certified that we have $6,891,569 in free cash.

As 'Your City Councilor' I follow through on the promises I make. In this term, as vice chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, I worked with the Building Department, Planning Board and City Council to pass long overdue updates to our zoning code. This was a promise I made to you last election. There is more work to be done. If re-elected I will work for further zoning modernization.

I have always worked Agawam's best interests. As council president, the City Council office was modernized and made more accessible to the public. I worked with Soldier On to bring veterans housing to Agawam. When Agawam needed an expensive new ladder truck, I was the only councilor to go to the fire apparatus show to learn about the choices. As council president, I created the sewer committee. As chair of the Zoning Review Subcommittee I worked to draft and pass an Adult Entertainment Zone to protect our citizens.

My commitment to Agawam extends beyond my service on the Council. My office, Letellier Law Offices, PC, is located in Agawam. I am President Elect of the Agawam Rotary Club. I have been a volunteer attorney for Habitat for Humanity, the Massachusetts Justice Project and the Hampden County Bar Association. I volunteered my legal services to incorporate the Friends of the Agawam Public Library. I previously served as president of the Board of the Parish Cupboard and on the Finance Committee for All Saints Parish.

I use my education and experience to research both sides of an issue and make an informed decision. I am a proud graduate of Agawam High School, Trinity College, (Connecticut) and Western New England School of Law. I ask for your vote Nov. 5. Thank you.

Robert Magovern

I'm asking you for the opportunity to once again serve as your councilman. It's more important than ever before to have a city councilor that is familiar with town leadership and the process of how to get things done. Experience counts.

There are many reasons why I want to be your councilman. My roots are deep in Agawam and I have a real appreciation for the history of our town. We are facing important issues that will shape the Agawam of tomorrow. The concerns for most of us are really quite similar.

We need good schools and opportunities for our children. We must plan for the future to keep good teachers and give the student what they need for academic and physical education.

We need safety and security for our retirement years. Increasing cost for seniors with limited resources makes it more important than ever to keep the line on spending.

We need prudent business and residential development of our town so we ensure our quality of life. I want to be part of an effective and compassionate government that looks honestly at the issues and does the fair and right thing for all of us. The only way to pay for what we need is to have a tax base which will produce the revenue to achieve this goal.

I ask you to please consider me for your next councilman. I'll do my very best to address all the voters' concerns to the best of my ability.

Agawam is a truly wonderful place to work, live and raise a family. As we know all too well, times are hard. Money is tight and cities and towns are being forced to make tough choices. As a businessman I understand the bottom line and as a lifelong resident and Agawam High graduate I understand the real world concerns of friends, neighbors and the everyday people of Agawam. I have done my best to give back to the town some of my time and talents as one of the founders of the St Patrick's Committee and serving as President of the Agawam Rotary Club. Having served as vice chairman of the Board of Trustees of Westfield State College I have a unique appreciation of our education system.

As a city councilor in Agawam for over 10 years, I've dealt with the budget problems of our city before. Everyone wants low taxes, good schools, services for our young and retired.

I look forward to the tough task ahead and would appreciate your vote. It is not about what we have done in the past but what we can do now and in the future. There are going to be some difficult choices to make for sure, but I'll be fair and I'll be honest and do what I think is right for the residents and the future of Agawam. Thank you.

Peter T. McNair

Peter T. McNair of Agawam, announced that he is running for city council. McNair, 52, of Richardson Place is President/CEO of McNair Business Machines Inc.

McNair favors ward representation and the reduction of the number of councilmen from 11 to nine. This would save the town $100,000 in just five years.

He supports a fair settlement for condominium owners for the cost of their trash pick up.

McNair indicated that CPA issue should be placed on the ballot as promised. He does like the CPA program in general.

The topic of term limits for city officials should be considered. Finally, a big issue the town is facing is our high school and our athletic fields. We absolutely have to find the necessary funding to get this done. Our students and families have been patient way too long.

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Election 2013

Donald Rheault

"Once again I ask for your support in helping me represent you on the city council. My record of service on the council required difficult decisions and my motivation for serving remains the same, to protect the character and integrity of our community," said Donald Rheault, candidate for Agawam City Council. Rheault said for government to operate efficiently and effectively it is crucial that councilors understand their role in working with the mayor and school department. "Understanding the function of the city council and the role of a city councilor fosters a spirit of cooperation that helps to keep our community moving forward in the right direction. I pledge to be a positive force moving Agawam in the right direction."

Rheault said the biggest challenge facing Agawam today is similar to many cities and towns across the country. "We do our best to hold the line on taxes and spending while at the same time maintain or improve the level of services we provide our community. The importance of public safety, education and the services we provide the taxpayers cannot be taken lightly. These areas are not just items in a budget, they represent real people with families. I believe I have maintained the delicate balance of moving Agawam forward while keeping a watchful eye on how are taxpayers' dollars are spent. I will continue to aggressively seek better ways of providing government services at lower costs."

Rheault also said he is proud of his record of attendance and has demonstrated his ability to listen to the voters of Agawam. "I believe the confidence that voters have placed in me over the years is the result of the concern I have shown over their issues. I have supported in full every school budget along with police and fire and the state of the art DPW and Agawam Senior Center.

Rheault is married to Joan (Mercadante) and has three sons, Michael, Brian and his wife April (Hadden), Scott and his wife Christie (Breton). He has nine grandchildren, Matthew, Christopher, Caleb, Ethan, Faith, Luke, Joshua, Nathan, Zachary and also a great-grandson, Mason.

Robert Rossi

"As Election Day nears, I ask for your vote so that I may continue to serve our community as your city councilor," said Bob Rossi, candidate for reelection to the Agawam City Council, in a statement released this week.

"When first elected to the city council, I made a promise that I would represent your interests and the concerns of this community with a strong and independent voice. I believe that I have kept that promise, and will continue to stand firm in that promise. I will continue to work to provide strong leadership, to develop a partnership working together for one common cause, a better future for the town of Agawam.

"During these difficult times and uncertainties that lie ahead comes a new reality, a reality that local government will have to shoulder a greater responsibility for holding things together. With the downturn in the economy and the shift in state and federal spending, there will be an intense burden on our government to strengthen and prioritize our budgetary process, to juggle reduced aid while trying to meet present and future needs."

Currently, Rossi is working on a number of important issues, to include spearheading the all-important Feeding Hills Sewer Project, advancing the newly formed Agawam Energy Commission and the Agawam Public Schools Long Range Planning Committee and the Agawam Licensing Commission, to name just a few.

I am committed to meet those challenges and make those decisions necessary to protect our future and preserve our quality of life. "Please help me to help you. Let's make Agawam a better place. Working together we can succeed," Rossi said

Rossi retired with 32 years of honorable police service to the town of Agawam; retiring at the rank of Lieutenant. Additionally, he served as adjunct professor at Westfield State College, Springfield Technical Community College and the Western Mass Regional Police Academy, his major area of instruction was constitutional law and legal updates.

After retirement, Rossi went on to become an arbitrator with the Better Business Bureau of Central New England, where he has earned several accommodations and the distinction of Arbitrator of the Year, in recognition of outstanding arbitrating service in the Dispute Resolution Program with the Better Business Bureau.

Rossi resides on Colemore Street with his wife, Lois. He is a communicant of Sacred Heart Church, a member of Agawam UNICO, the Massachusetts Police Association, the Massachusetts Municipal Employees Association, Friends of the Senior Center, and Friends of the Agawam Library and Friends of Robinson Park.

Rossi's Pledge

"As your city councilor, I will continue to be your voice and to work tirelessly as your advocate in city government. I need your help, and I ask for your vote."

Anthony R. Suffriti

Lifelong resident of Agawam

Father of two daughters currently in the Agawam School System.

Treasurer for the Hampden County EMS Council last eight years.

Vice president of operations for a $33 million a year medical transportation company for the last 10 years.

At this time I would like to announce my intention to seek a seat on the Agawam City Council in the upcoming election. I am running for city council because it's time for a new perspective and renewed energy for Agawam. I have a passion for this community and I want to be involved in shaping its future.

Priorities on the Council will be:

• Financially sustainable budget, that ensures Agawam's long term viability.

• Make sure our schools have the resources they need to give our children the best education.

• Town Charter review.

• Right now, we need leaders who will take on the tough issues facing Agawam. I have a strong business background that will allow me to make sound fiscal decisions. I will work tirelessly to revive Agawam's economic vitality. Most importantly, I will always listen to the ideas and concerns of our fellow residents. Agawam has a tremendous sense of community. I want to preserve and build upon these values, which I believe makes Agawam unique.

I'm ready to bring innovative ideas and renewed energy to our local government. I believe it's time for a new voice on the city council and I'm prepared to provide real leadership.

It would be my honor to represent you. I humbly ask for your vote on Nov. 5.

Corrine Wingard

I am running for Agawam City Council because I have a deep commitment to our community, and I know I can make a positive impact on town government. I will bring a fresh outlook and a lot of energy to the job.

I am very active in town, and I see both the promises and challenges for Agawam. In our personal lives we need to periodically take stock of what we're doing, how we're spending our money, and focus on what is truly important to us. The same concept should be true for town government. However, this does not appear to have happened in Agawam in a long time. We have to change that, and I want to be part of the change.

My first priority as a city councilor will be to call for an outside audit of town operating expenses to look for opportunities to save money. I also will review the town budget, looking at each department and dollar it spends with one question in mind: Does it improve the quality of life in our town?

As a retiree, I know first hand how important it is to budget and spend wisely. I've seen my expenses go up dramatically, leaving me with less money to spend. That's why I am committed to keeping taxes as low as possible to maintain the highest level of services for Agawam.

My other priorities are to provide the school system with the funding it needs to maintain a high quality education for every student; to increase energy efficiency for the town, residents, and businesses; and to

pursue implementation of a "Master Plan" for Agawam's future because we cannot continue to put off essential maintenance of our infrastructure.

I am a graduate of Agawam High School, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from American International College, and a master's degree in social work from the University of Connecticut. I worked for 30 years for the Hartford Public Schools as a social worker.

I am deeply involved in community affairs, having served as the past president of the Agawam Garden Club, co-chair of Go-Green Agawam, the forerunner of the Agawam Energy Commission, a member of the Agawam Sesquicentennial House Tour Committee, and helped in the formation of ADOG, to create a dog park in Agawam. I have been a fundraiser for the Agawam Emergency Fuel Assistance Fund, and for Friends of School Street Barn.

I currently am a member of the Community Preservation Act Committee and a Commissioner of the Agawam Housing Authority and will remain in both of those roles if I am elected to the Agawam City Council.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Anthony C. Bonavita

Anthony C. Bonavita announced his candidacy for re-election to the Agawam School Committee.

Bonavita stated, "It is all about helping our community and our children. Both of my children graduated from Agawam High School, went to college and graduate school. We must continue to give our children the necessary tools to achieve their goals, whether it be college education, military or choosing to join the work force in their chosen fields of opportunity. We, as members of the school committee, must continue to strive for excellence."

Bonavita, who serves as the committee's vice chair, is an attorney who graduated from Fordham University and Suffolk University law school. He also he serves on the budget finance subcommittee.

He further added, "the school committee has worked hard to properly fund the budget, set the policies and provide the assets to give all children the chance to succeed. We have great students, parents, teachers and administrators in Agawam and I am proud to serve with and for them. Our school committee – along with Mayor Richard Cohen as its chair – have worked cohesively together to keep Agawam on the forefront of education. I have the energy and vision to continue the job and I respectfully ask for your support."

Bonavita resides at 683 Cooper St. in Agawam with his wife, Adele, and is the proud grandfather of his son's two children, Teddy and Liliana. He can be reached at 786-2079.

Shelley Borgatti-Reed

I would like to publicly announce my candidacy for re-election to the Agawam School Committee for a fourth term. I am a life-long resident of Agawam, graduating from Agawam High School in 1978. I attended Holyoke Community College earning an associate's degree in legal secretarial science and hold a bachelor's degree in organizational management from Ashford University. I have worked for the federal government under the Department of Defense in East Hartford, Conn. for the past 33 years and have served as a member of the Board of Directors for the East Hartford Federal Credit Union for 10 years.

I have enjoyed serving the public as a member of the Agawam School Committee and am proud to say I have attended every public meeting during my six year tenure. As our children are our most important asset, my goal is to continue to work with the school committee, parents, teachers, and administration in a positive direction to achieve educational excellence for all the children of Agawam. I feel being an active parent of children who are part of our school system gives me a better awareness of the needs of our schools and what is important to education.

I serve on many committees as part of my duties as a member of the school committee. I currently serve on the Policy, Technology, and Facility Needs Committee. I am also on the Board of Directors for the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative (LPVEC). I have been an advocate and voice for parents, addressing their concerns and encouraging communication with school administration. I have pushed for keeping our schools and children safe by pushing for improvements in schools and assisting in establishing a district-wide wellness policy for all children.

During my time on the school committee, I have seen how important good communication and good relationships are to the children and their education. I promise to continue to work in the best interest of the town I have grown up in. I will work to the best of my ability in a financially sound and responsive manner, providing a strong leadership for the community.

I have two children in the Agawam School System; a son who is a junior at the Agawam High School and a daughter who is in the sixth grade at the Roberta Doering School. I have been an active member of Parent Teacher Organizations and continue to volunteer. Some of my past and present volunteer work includes, teaching CCD at Sacred Heart Church, serving as a member of the Granger School Council and serving as an Agawam Youth Cheerleading Coach. I have also delivered Meals on Wheels for the East Hartford Visiting Nurses. By continuing to serve on the Agawam School Committee, I hope to lead us in a direction that will enable our schools to continue to improve for years to come for all the children, teachers and parents of Agawam. I will continue to work hard to get the job done.

Election 2013

Carl Dagenais

My name is Carl Dagenais, and I am running for a seat on the Agawam School Committee. I have lived in Agawam for the last 20 years, where I have met many wonderful people and parents as my children have moved through the Agawam schools. My children have had fantastic teachers and coaches along the way. I have never held political office, nor do I have any political ambition beyond school committee. I do not view this seat as a part time job, a springboard for future office, or a means to keep my name in the public conversation. I am doing this for one reason only – I have two sons in the public schools, and I want them and all students of Agawam to have the best education possible. We are lucky to have a great school system, but we need the right people serving on the committee to maintain that success and keep Agawam moving forward.

I was born and raised in Springfield and graduated from Classical High School. I earned my bachelor's degree in economics from Westfield State College, and received my MBA from Western New England College at night while working full-time in the private sector. Extracurricular activities were a very important part of my education. I participated in football and track in high school and was elected captain of the track team in college. I was fortunate to be inducted into the Springfield High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

My work experience includes 18 years at MassMutual Financial Group in the Retirement Services Division where I held many positions including trainer, manager, client representative, and business analyst. In 2008, I changed careers and became a high school teacher at Central High School in Springfield.

I ask that you vote for the candidate with children in the school system and the qualifications to make the right decisions. Every day, I am on the front lines of education as a certified teacher. I have first-hand knowledge of the current issues including: MCAS testing, teaching methodology, motivating students, the challenges of student athletes, and managing a classroom.

I have volunteered for many years in the Agawam Little League as a coach, and the Piranhas Swim Team as a volunteer at the swim meets. This has been rewarding for me to work with children and give back to the community. I have taught coached, tutored, and mentored students of all ages.

A school committee functions at its best when members come from various backgrounds. Experience is valuable, but any organization needs new voices and a fresh perspective to move forward. I believe in the motto that great schools equal a great community. I ask for your vote on Tuesday, Nov. 5. I am dedicated, qualified, and ready to serve the students and families of Agawam.

Linda Galarneau

My commitment to providing our students with an educational system that supports success for all students remains the driving force behind my seeking re-election to the school committee. During my tenure on the School Committee I have been involved with contract negotiations, annual budgets, and setting district goals and priorities. I also served on the 2013 Facility Needs Committee and I have been chairperson of the Policy Sub-Committee from 2009 to present .

I am proud to say that our schools continue to make positive strides in areas of school safety, technology, enrichment programs, textbooks, curriculum revision, and academic support services.

The fiscal year 2014 school budget of $38 million was a level-service budget that had a $1.6 million increase, which is the difference between the cost of a level-service budget and a level-funded budget. Our budget had no staff reductions, no elimination of programs, no increase in existing fees and no new additional fees. One of the highlights to our budget was the replacement of textbooks. Priority needs for textbooks for 2013-2014 were identified at a replacement cost of $191,000. Having our textbook inventory updated this year will allow the district to develop a five-year textbook rotation schedule. The five year cycle will then be updated each year to ensure that the district maintains adequate resources. This along with textbook replacement as part of the of the school budget every year will ensure that our students have the most current information available.

Providing a safe environment is important to overall student achievement. Security cameras at the high school and junior high are used daily by principals to deal with disputes, and ensure safety. More cameras are slated to be added to the high school along with cameras at both Phelps and Granger elementary schools

Our Reading Recovery Program supplements classroom teaching with one-to-one sessions during the school day to first grade students who are struggling to read. The goal of this program is to prevent long term reading difficulties .

Enrichment programs like the Renzulli Learning System, Virtual High Schools, Honors and Advanced Placement courses are available for students found to require enrichment education.

This is just a snap shot of the many things that are being done to meet the needs of our students. The demands and challenges that face our school system today are great and will be even greater tomorrow. Meeting those demands takes commitment, dedication and perseverance. I believe that I have demonstrated those qualities during my tenure on the school committee.

Once again, I am asking for your support Nov. 5 so that I may continue to work in the best interest of all our students.

Issues that are important to me:

• Providing an enriching environment for our students.

We want Agawam to attract first-rate teachers and committed administrators. A forward-thinking School Committee is key to making that happen. Solid, safe buildings and a push for advanced technology should also be on our agenda.

• Increasing community involvement

I'm a firm believer in the spirit of volunteerism. There are many talented people in our community who could make a difference in a child's life by mentoring him or her. I'd like to work with School Committee members to create a fertile environment for this to happen. Dedicated townspeople can truly make a difference and make my campaign slogan of "Strong Schools, Better Community" a reality.

I want to be a School Committee member that understands the issues, works hard to resolve problems and can work well with everyone to see that effective solutions are arrived at and implemented in a timely fashion.

I promise to do the work, research the issues, ask the important questions and listen to other opinions to arrive at the decisions that will prepare our children for the future.

It will be a privilege to serve the residents of Agawam. Please vote for me when you cast your ballot on Nov. 5.

Wendy Rua

My name is Wendy (Pudlo) Rua. My husband, Mario, and I are proud parents of our three sons- Christian, 10; Gabriel, 8; and Timothy, 5. I grew up in Feeding Hills. As a 1990 Agawam High School graduate, I can say that I have experienced the benefits of an Agawam Public School education first-hand. I attended Mount Holyoke College and received my bachelor's degree in psychology in 1994. After graduation, I spent a year as an AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer. Furthermore, I have been employed by Hampden County Correctional Center, The Children's Study Home, DARE Family Services and Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care. Each job has involved advocacy and community outreach.

My husband and I made the decision that I would be a stay-at-home mother once our oldest was born. As a result, I have been fortunate to be a Cub Scout leader, Junior FIRST Lego League robotics coach, former PTO President at Clifford Granger Elementary School, former School Improvement Council member, volunteer for the Agawam Family and Community Program and often seen volunteering in local schools.

In 2011, I was elected to the Agawam School Committee. I am a tireless advocate for the rights of children, strong supporter of public education and faithful friend to educators. Prior to running for election, I had been attending school committee meetings and wanted to be sure that parent voices were heard and that we were putting community before politics.

In the age of mandates, constant changes in curriculum and the ever-increasing demands on teachers, it is imperative that we support our educators. They deserve an environment where they can focus on doing what they do best – teaching! I have consistently pushed for a budget which allows them to do so.

Social media and safety are two issues which I continue to bring to the forefront of discussion. I understand the lasting impact of the tragic events which have occurred on school grounds throughout the country and want to ensure that safety is evaluated on an ongoing basis.The ever-changing world of social media also has a great impact on our children and I want to open up dialogue between the school, parents and educators to encourage the positive use of technology in our classrooms while promoting internet safety.

Policy Committee, Wellness Committee, attendance at District-Wide Support Team meetings, representative at the Massachusetts Association of School Committee members, attendance at Regional School Committee meetings to keep apprised of changing laws and the current state of education in the Commonwealth and attendance at as many school-related functions as time allows – you can find me! I am approachable. I am a parent, an advocate and dedicated to helping our brightest stars – the children of our future. Once upon a time, I was one of them. I will do everything I can to help our next generation shine. Thank you for voting for me on Tuesday, Nov. 5. I look forward to continuing as a proud member of the Agawam School Committee.

Roberta G. Doering

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Roberta G. Doering and I am asking you once again to allow me to represent you on the Agawam School Committee.

Children – their education, their physical and emotional well-being and what we as adults can do to help them grow and succeed – have been the focus of my life in Agawam. I have learned the importance of caring for the whole child in order to ensure that he or she will have the resources to succeed in the classroom. I have never been less than passionate about what was best for the children of our community and what was needed to support the best education and best outcome for our young people. I think that all us working together – parents, school personnel, community residents, business leaders, clergy, and students – we have made great progress and have much to be proud of in our children.

I am running for re-election this year because I believe that there is still important work to do .Now, more than ever, we need to focus on the social and emotional challenges that many of our are students are confronting. We need to understand that there is no "one size" solution to these challenges and that we must consider what strategies will best help each student.

Once again,I ask the people of Agawam for their support in order to work for our children, the future leaders of our community. Look for number 7 when you vote.

Eric Lunden

My name is Eric Lunden and I am a first-time candidate in an Agawam town election. I feel that it is time for my generation to step up, get involved and give back to our community and that's why I'm running for school committee on Nov. 5. I'm also running because I think I can bring a fresh voice to the committee and serve as a positive liaison between the community and the school department.

I'm a Brownie true and true; I was born and raised in Agawam and attended public schools here from kindergarten through high school. I am proud that my children attend the same school that I went to as a child. I understand that the successful education of every student has a direct impact on the future of our town. I take education issues seriously. I am a member of the School Council at Granger School where I interact with teachers and administration in order to aid and shape the policies and programs of the school.

I am the president of the PTO. My role is to support the mission of the PTO and help children. At Granger, we are trying to be creative to find ways for all families to be part of the school community.

I have volunteered for the town in other capacities as well. I am the director of in-town soccer for the Agawam Soccer Association. I am a volunteer coach for the AHS Indoor Winter Track team. I love all sports. Both playing and coaching has taught me that hard work and collaboration can be the difference between being good and being great.

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Public Safety

Police Log

The Agawam Police Department responded to 283 calls from Sept. 17 to Sept. 23. The department made 10 arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Sept. 17

Jose Torres, 49, of 16 Cumberland St., Springfield, was arrested on charges of operating motor vehicle with license revoked as habitual traffic offender, and failure to stop/yield.

Lisa J. Katalina, 47, of 472 Cold Spring Ave., West Springfield, was arrested on a charge of town ordinance violation/open container liquor.

Christopher T. Haogue, 47, of 74 Springfield St., Apt. 8, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of town ordinance violation/open container (two counts).

Wednesday, Sept. 18

James P. Sampson, 51, of 51 Fruwirth Ave., Agawam, was arrested on charges of assault and battery with dangerous weapon, and domestic assault and battery.

Thursday, Sept. 19

Brian J. Lopes, 32, of 20 Washington Ave., Agawam, was arrested on charges of assault and/or assault and battery on pregnant person; assault with dangerous weapon; and domestic assault and battery.

Friday, Sept. 20

William J. Velozo, 40, of 84 High St., Apt. 2, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of violation of abuse prevention order.

Saturday, Sept. 21

Reginald L. Cole, 58, of 145 Anvil St., Agawam, was arrested on a charge of domestic assault and battery (two counts).

Kenneth Gary Stawasz, 62, of 264 Maynard St., Agawam, was arrested on an arrest warrant for probation.

Frank J. D'Angelo, 65, of 44 Pheasant Hill, Apt. C, Feeding Hills, was arrested on charges of open and gross lewdness; indecent exposure; and disorderly conduct.

Monday, Sept. 23

Leonid V. Melnik, 30, of 63 Annabel St., Feeding Hills, was arrested on charges of domestic assault and battery, and intimidating a witness.

Fire Log

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 67 EMS calls and 17 fire and emergency response calls for the week of Sept. 17 to Sept. 23.

On Sept. 17 at 9:29 a.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for public service assistance.

On Sept. 17 at 2:32 p.m., the department responded to Mill Street for no incident found on arrival at dispatch address.

On Sept. 18 at 5:30 a.m., the department responded to Plantation Drive for public service assistance.

On Sept. 18 at 10:03 a.m., the department responded to North Street to assist invalid.

On Sept. 18 at 1:59 p.m., the department responded to Parkview Drive for oil or other combustible liquid spill.

On Sept. 18 at 6:22 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for unintentional transmission of alarm.

On Sept. 18 at 8:43 p.m., the department responded to Granger Drive for unauthorized burning.

On Sept. 19 at 7:07 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for a lockout.

On Sept. 19 at 2:22 p.m., the department responded to Silver Street for gasoline or other flammable liquid spill.

On Sept. 20 at 4:42 a.m., the department responded to Maple Street for false alarm or false call.

On Sept. 20 at 7:29 a.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for detector activation, no fire – unintentional.

On Sept. 20 at 8:41 a.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for a lockout.

On Sept. 20 at 9:15 a.m., the department responded to Brookfield Lane to assist invalid.

On Sept. 20 at 4:52 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 east for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Sept. 21 at 9:55 a.m., the department responded to South Westfield Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Sept. 22 at 9:59 a.m., the department responded to Silver Lake Drive for a good intent call.

On Sept. 22 at 1:59 p.m., the department responded to South West Street for a citizen complaint.

Seniors

Agawam Senior Center

Weekly calendar of events

Monday, Sept. 30: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:30 a.m., Painting Club, Line Dance Class; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 5 p.m., Zumba w/Donna.

Tuesday, Oct. 1: 9 a.m., Exercise Class, Knitting Group Meets, Sewing Class; 10 a.m., PACE Chair Exercise Group; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie ("The Ghost and Mr. Chicken"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., Memory Lane Chorus Meets; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Evening Line Dance, Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, Oct. 2: 8:15 a.m., Yoga, Weight Training; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 10 a.m., Friends Meeting; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Ballroom Lessons, Scrabble; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter II Meeting; 5 p.m., Zumba; 6 p.m., Western Mass. Genealogy Group.

Thursday, Oct. 3: 9 a.m., Exercise Class; 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch; 1:30 p.m., Open Art Class; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6:30 p.m., Pitch.

Friday, Oct. 4: 8:30 a.m., Tap Class; 9:15 a.m., Oil Painting; 10 a.m., Tai Chi Class; 11:15 a.m., Yoga; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 7 p.m. Applause Series.

Lunch menu

Monday, Sept. 30: Ham and broccoli casserole with rice, garden salad, apples.

Tuesday, Oct. 1: American chop suey, garden salad, birthday cake.

Wednesday, Oct. 2: Pork chops, mashed potatoes, gravy, dilled carrots, applesauce.

Thursday, Oct. 3: Chicken chow mein, brown rice, crunchy noodles, pudding.

Friday, Oct. 4: Stuffed salmon, scalloped potatoes, cauliflower, peaches.

Notes from the Music Room

By Darcy Davis

After hearing a couple of wonderful pianists recently, I could not help but think back on the Agawam High School Chorus and musicals over the years and the many very talented young piano players who contributed so much for the many concerts and shows that were presented over all of the years before I came, during the years of my tenure and now continue into the present times.

This is going to take more than one article, but I will start with students who were awarded the Frederick Chopin Piano Award, which was given during the years from 1956 to 1972. I am sure the names will be recalled by many people.

They are Marcy Belcher, Barbara Guidetti, Gay Reynolds, Louise Olivo, Dianne Mabb, Allan Morgan, Dorothy Harper, Elliot Morin, Barbara Bishop, Richard Harper, John Pranulis, Elizabeth Wright, Carol Heyl, Steve Cirillo and Michael Rheault.

Crafters wanted for upcoming fair

The Friends of the Agawam Senior Center are seeking crafters for the annual Craft Fair to be held Saturday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Cost is $35 per table. Set-up will take place Friday evening after 4 p.m. or Saturday morning. For more information or to rent a table, call JoAnn Balakier (413) 789-0451.

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October 6, 2013
Twin Hills Country Club
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Social Hour 11:00am to 12:30pm
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Flyers are in the mail

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In the Classroom

AHS Bands Ad Book returns

The Agawam High School Bands have been providing music for the Agawam community for more than 90 years. Thousands of student-musicians have played at concerts, pep rallies, graduation ceremonies, football games, parades, and other events in our schools and in our town throughout the decades – to the enjoyment of us all.

While the bands receive funding through the school department budget, those funds do not cover all the expenses incurred by the bands over the course of the year. The Agawam High School Band Parents Association has created the Ad Book to help raise funds to supplement the band budget. The Ad Book is professionally designed and printed, with more than 1,000 copies distributed free of charge at band performances such as the Thanksgiving Day Football Game, Winter Concert, Jazz Café, Spring Concert, Band Time Concert, Pops Concert, and other band events throughout the year. Reasonable ad rates and a large circulation make the Ad Book a great opportunity to support this Agawam institution while promoting your product or business.

Now in its fourth year, the Agawam High School Band Parent Association Ad Book has grown to become a major fundraising activity for the High School Band Program that is supported by dozens of local businesses, organizations, and individuals. All area organizations and business are invited to purchase space. Ad rates are unchanged for 2013-2014 - full page (7.5 x 10) $200; half page (7.5 x 4.75) $100; quarter page (3.5 x 4.75) $75; eighth page (3.5 x 2) $35.

Individuals are also invited to support the band by becoming a Band Patron. As Band Patron, you will receive: Director's Circle - $75 donation (two complimentary tickets to Jazz Cafe, name listing and one-line message to appear in AHS Bands 2013-2014 Ad Book); Musician's Circle - $50 donation (one complimentary ticket to Jazz Cafe, name listing and one-line message to appear in Ad Book); Alumni Circle - $25 donation (name listing in Ad Book); Friend - $15 donation (name listing Ad Book); Student - $5 donation (name listing in Ad Book).

Deadline is Friday, Nov. 1. All payment, ad material, and patron information is due at that time.

Make checks payable to AHSBPA and send with ad material and patron information (name(s) and message, if applicable - 85 character max., including spaces, as you wish it to appear in the Ad Book) to: Noreen Little, Treasurer, AHSBPA, 31 Sylvan Lane, Feeding Hills, Mass. 01030 by Friday, Nov. 1.

Press-ready PDFs may be sent directly to cecco@davidcecchi.com (put 2013-2014 AD BOOK in subject line). All other ad material should be included with your payment. For questions regarding ad material, or to see a copy of past Ad Books, contact David Cecchi, Ad Book coordinator, at 786-3236 or cecco@davidcecchi.com.

GRANGER CARNIVAL

Turley Publications courtesy photos

The Granger School PTO put on a carnival last week to raise funds to support the school. (Above) Harry Lunden takes his turn at the toilet paper toss. (Right) Katie Lunden poses during her visit to the virtual photo booth.

TAP BOOTH for FREE

Agawam Schools' weekly lunch menu

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school's website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Sept. 30: Baked chicken O's with dipping sauce, mashed potatoes, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Oct. 1: Cheeseburger on a roll with lettuce and tomatoes, oven baked French fries, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

Wednesday, Oct. 2: Whole-wheat buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, French breadstick, mixed vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Oct. 3: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, mashed potatoes, broccoli, fresh and chilled fruit

Friday, Oct. 4: Ultra-grain cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL

Monday, Sept. 30: Baked chicken O's with dipping sauce, mashed potatoes, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Oct. 1: Barbeque rib sandwich, side of macaroni and cheese, carrot coins, fresh and chilled fruit.

Wednesday, Oct. 2: Whole-wheat buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, French breadstick, mixed vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Oct. 3: Ultra-grain cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Oct. 4: Hot dog on a whole-wheat roll with assorted condiments, Smart Food popcorn, coleslaw, watermelon, chilled fruit.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, Sept. 30: Baked chicken O's with dipping sauce, mashed potatoes, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Oct. 1: Barbeque rib sandwich, side of macaroni and cheese, carrot coins, fresh and chilled fruit.

Wednesday, Oct. 2: Whole-wheat buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, French breadstick, mixed vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Oct. 3: Ultra-grain cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Oct. 4: Hot dog on a whole-wheat roll with assorted condiments, Smart Food popcorn, coleslaw, watermelon, chilled fruit.

AIC named to Military Friendly list

SPRINGFIELD - American International College in Springfield has been named to the 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools. The list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

The list was published by Victory Media, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business that has been serving the military community since 2001. Criteria for making the Military Friendly Schools list included efforts to recruit and retain military and veteran students, results in recruiting military and veteran students and academic accreditations.

Diane Furtek, AIC Registrar and Veteran Resource Center liaison, said, "Currently, there are more than 50 veterans and family members receiving benefits and are enrolled at American International College. The overall goal is to help AIC veterans and family members navigate the government paperwork, reintegration to academic life, and reach employment success through higher education," she said.

Sean Collins, vice president at Victory Media and a nine-year Navy veteran, said, "Inclusion on the 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools shows AIC's commitment to providing a supportive environment for military students. The need for education is growing and our mission is to provide the military community with transparent, world-class resources to assist in their search for schools."

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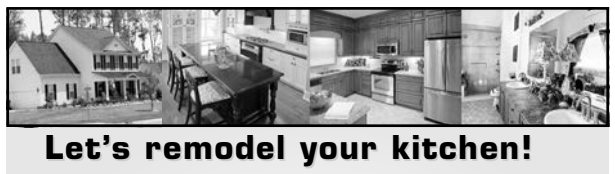
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AHS Counseling Bulletin

Visiting College Representatives: Students interested in meeting with any of the following college or university representatives that will be visiting the school must sign up at least one day in advance in the Counseling Center.

Sept. 23: 7:45 a.m., Goodwin College

Sept. 25: 10 a.m., Wagner College; 12:15 p.m., University of New Haven; 12:30 p.m., Southern Vermont College.

Sept. 26: 8 a.m., Mass. College of Liberal Arts; 10 a.m., Elms College; 12:08 p.m., Mt. St. Mary College

Sept. 30, 10:30 a.m., Fairfield University

Oct. 7: 12:15 p.m., University of Hartford

Oct. 9: 12:30 p.m., Babson College

Oct. 15: Noon, Wheaton College

Oct. 16: 8 a.m., Sacred Heart University

Oct. 17: Holyoke Community College

Open Houses/Informational Sessions: Many colleges are hosting events in the next few weeks. A complete list is posted in the classrooms as well as the Counseling Center. Check the college website for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event.

Emory University: Will host an admission information session Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. in Simsbury, Conn. at the Ethel Walker School, Living Room of Beaver Brook.

University of Miami: Will host a regional information session Sept. 28 at 11 a.m. at the Boston Marriott Newton. Call (617) 969-1000 for more information.

Brown University, University of Chicago, Columbia University, Cornell University and Rice University: Will be hosting joint receptions in Cambridge at the Boston Marriott Cambridge, Sept. 29 at 2 p.m. or in Dedham at the Hilton Boston/Dedham Sept. 29 at 7 p.m.

Washington University in St. Louis: Local information sessions will be held Sunday, Sept. 22 in Providence, R.I. or Sunday, Sept. 29 in Newton. Visit admissions.wustl.edu/Pages/Home.aspx for details.

Pioneer Valley College Fair: HCC is sponsoring this College Fair Wednesday, Sept. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Holyoke High School. This fair will be comprised of colleges and universities from across the Northeast. A Financial Aid Information session will begin at 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Hispanic College Career Fair: AIC will host this event Wednesday, Oct. 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Register online at www.collegefair.info.

American University: Will host an Admission Reception Oct. 28 from 2-4 p.m. at the Hartford Marriott (Farmington).

ACT registration: The registration deadline for the Oct. 26 test is Sept. 27. Register online at www.actstudent.org.

SAT registration: The registration deadline for the Nov. 2nd test is Oct. 3. Register online at www.collegeboard.org.

Scholarships: See your counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application.

Wendy's Heisman Visit www.wendyshighschoolheisman.com/. Award: $500. Deadline. Oct. 2.

AES Engineers: Visit www.aesengineers.com/scholarships.htm. Award: $500. Deadline: Oct. 4.

Horatio Alger Scholarship: Visit https://www.horatioalger.org/scholarships. Award: $5,000-$20,000. Deadline: Oct. 25.

Ron Brown Scholarship: Visit http://www.ronbrown.org for more information. Award: $10,000 annually. Deadline: Nov. 1 and Jan. 9.

AHS Class of '68 plans reunion

The 45th reunion of the Agawam High School Class of 1968 will be held Saturday, Oct. 19 from 6 to 11 p.m. at Crestview Country Club, 281 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam. The evening will begin with a social hour from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by a buffet prepared by Chef Paul. There will be a cash bar all evening. Tickets are $45 per person, and include food, tax, tip and entertainment. Payment must be received by Oct. 9. Dress is casual.

For more information, contact Cecile (Hamel) Roy at (413) 537- 4166 or email cheechcr@aol.com.

Cars for a caus

Not even a little rain could dampen the spirits of car enthusiasts who turned out Sept. 21 for a car show to benefit the American Cancer Society's 2014 Relay for Life of Agawam Saturday, Sept. 21. The event was spearheaded by Mario and Janine Iacolo in the parking lot of Kaptain Jimmy's Restaurant & Distillery with all proceeds going toward the Relay.

Turley Publications p
by Kimberly Hat

Michael McGill of Feeding Hills.

Spectators bear Saturday's afternoon showers.

A 1946 Dodge pick-up.

Hugh Lannon and his 9-year-old son, Zack Lannon of Westfield che
engine in a Buick Grand National.

Even "chicks" like cars.

The rain did not keep the owners of these vehicles away from the car show to benefit the Relay for Life of Agawam Saturday.

Event organizer Janine Iacolo hands out trophies.

Rich Berryman of Feeding Hills with his 1970 Mach 1 Mustang.

Mario Iacolo hands Ed Goral of Southampton the "Fan Favorite" trophy for his '31 Ford Street Rod.

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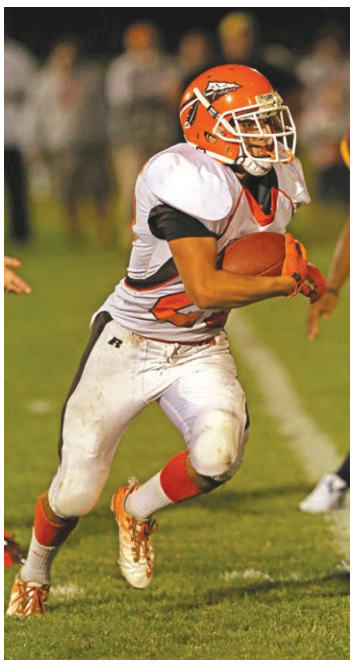
SPORTS

Brownies stretch streak to three

Score big win on road at Chicopee

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The Agawam football team knew they were still going to be challenged even though they were moving to the Suburban League.



Agawam running back Steve Comee (25) looks for a big hole to cut through.

Last Friday night, the Brownies outlasted the Pacers in a hard-fought game at Szot Park 20-14.

The key to Agawam's victory was a 6:30 drive that did not result in a touchdown, but ate a lot of time off the clock in the fourth quarter with the Brownies up 20-6.

Chicopee did give themselves an opportunity to come back, holding Agawam completely scoreless in the second half.

Agawam took possession of the ball with 10:45 remaining in the fourth quarter. Agawam had taken over the ball on downs and started on their own 14-yard line.

Steve Comee, who ran for 101 yards in the game, helped the Brownies use up a lot of time by running the ball seven times in the drive. Comee was effective for nearly 6:00, helping Agawam slowly move across the field and picking up four first downs.

"That is what we were looking to do," said Comee. "We were looking to just run the ball and keep picking up first downs."

The drive ended when Chicopee's Joshua Malone intercepted a pass from Agawam's Mike Vecchiarelli and gave the Pacers an opportunity to possess the ball with 2:53 left.

The Pacers were effective moving up the field, but quarterback Riley Campbell nearly threw two interceptions. The clock also worked against the Pacers. The biggest play for Chicopee came with the ball 34 yards away from the end zone. Campbell made a lateral pass to Malone. Malone would start on the left side and maneuver around several opposing defenders and landed two yards from the end zone.

Campbell quickly spiked the ball with less than 30 seconds remaining in the game. On the next play, Tony Slaughter ran in the end zone for the touchdown. Malone would catch a short pass for the two-point conversion to make it 20-14.

Malone, who also serves as the Pacer kicker, went for the onside kick. Gio Russo was prepared and corralled a very good bouncing ball. Vecchiarelli was able to take a knee for the final down of the game.

Agawam scored all their points in the first half. Comee had a 6-yard run for a touchdown in the first quarter, allowing Agawam to take an 8-6 lead. Jason Carleton would catch a pass from Vecchiarelli good for 25 yards. Russo would make a short run later in the second quarter for a touchdown.

Vecchiarelli went 5-for-15 for 153 yards and one touchdown.

See FOOTBALL, page 15

Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Agawam running back Gio Russo (3) makes a cut up the field.

Lady Brownies rally to tip Northampton

Casey tallies game-winner

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam girls soccer team trailed early, but came back quickly and scored a 2-1 victory over visiting Northampton last Friday afternoon.

The Brownies fell behind when Lily Glading scored early in the game to give Northampton a 1-0 lead.

About midway through the first half, Agawam continued to make good runs through the right side with Alexandria Steutzel doing her best to try and make a play.

With 19:51 remaining in the half, Steutzel received a crossing pass and headed toward the goal. She was able to deke around a Northampton defender and had the opportunity to shoot the ball unopposed. She made a great shot into the upper right of the net to tie the score 1-1.

A little more than 10 minutes later, Agawam was on the attack again.

Kelly Theriault possessed the ball and kicked it past Morgan Casey.

Casey would break away from the Northampton defense and caught up with the ball nearing the right post. Casey angled toward the goal and let loose a high slicing shot that found the upper left of the net to make it 2-1 Agawam with 9:00 remaining in the first half.

Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Morgan Casey tries to make a run up the left side of the field.

Agawam continued to attack the Northampton goal for the rest of the first half, with the exception of one small attack by the Blue Devils that led to a Northampton corner kick with about 4:00 left. Agawam's defense played it well and immediately cleared the ball out.

Steutzel almost gave Agawam an insurance goal by serving up a shot toward the left post, but Casey was not able to meet it with a header and Agawam went to halftime up 2-1.

Defense was the name of the game in the second half as neither team was able to score. Agawam picked up the tempo about midway through the second half, but just could not finish any of their opportunities.

Northampton did not get many

Please see SOCCER, page 15

Amherst proves too tough for Agawam

Field hockey slips under .500

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam girls volleyball team continues to play strong, despite suffering one setback during the past week.

The Brownies have improved to 5-2 for the regular season, beating Chicopee and Westfield by 3-0 scores. But they fell hard against Amherst, losing 3-0 last Wednesday. Amherst is very strong this year with a 6-1 record.

Last Friday afternoon, the Brownies completely dominated the Pacers in their 3-0 win.

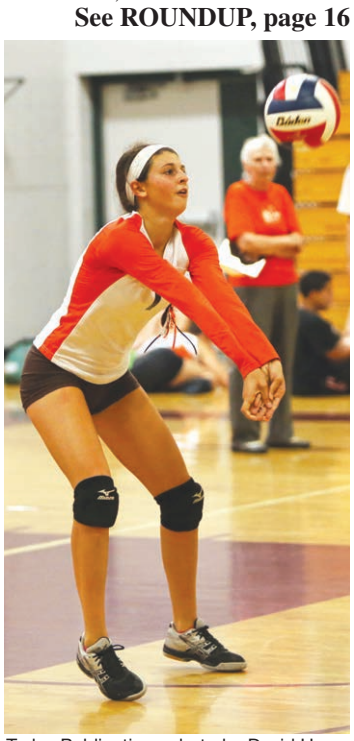
Chicopee had already suffered a tough defeat at the hands of Chicopee Comp last week, including losing a 25-0 set.

Agawam nearly matched that feat, beating Chicopee 25-4 in the first set. The Brownies would then win sets of 25-10 and 25-13. Chicopee managed just 27 points in the loss. They dropped to 5-3 for the regular season.

Last Monday afternoon, the Brownies got a great performance from Mary-Kate Reidy and Kate Moriarty.

Reidy had six aces as the Brownies defeated Westfield 3-0. Playing on the road, the Brownies won sets

See ROUNDUP, page 16



Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Agawam's Danielle Stratton (1) hits a bump shot.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Agawam Athletic Association Suburban and CYO Basketball tryout dates set

AGAWAM - The Agawam Athletic Association (AAA) is a non-profit organization founded to promote the sport of basketball for Agawam's youth. For over 35 years the Agawam Athletic Association has sponsored the most talented and competitive travel teams in Agawam youth basketball for girls and boys in grades 3 thru 8.

Our association's travel basketball teams compete against the best Suburban and CYO basketball talent throughout the greater Springfield area.

Tryouts for boys will be: Wednesday, Oct. 2 7 to 8:30 p.m. for third and fourth grade boys.

Monday, Sept. 30 5 to 7 p.m. for fifth grade boys and from 7 to 9 p.m. for sixth grade boys.

Tryouts for girls will be: Wednesday, Oct. 2 5 to 6:30 p.m. for third and fourth grade girls

Friday, Sept. 27 5 to 7 p.m. for fifth and sixth grade girls.

Friday, Sept. 27 7 to 9 p.m. for seventh and eighth grade girls.

All tryouts will be held at Agawam Junior High School and players should arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled time.

For more information and/or questions about the Agawam Athletic Association Suburban and CYO basketball program please contact George Circosta at GeoCircosta@comcast.net or 374-2283. Information can also be found on our web site: www.leaguelineup.com/agawamaa.

Youth wrestling sign-ups scheduled

AGWAWM - Agawam Youth Wrestling will hold sign-ups Monday, Sept. 30 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street.

A $75 fee is due at registration, with a discount for two or more siblings.

For more information, call Bob Schwein at 222-6548 or email rpschwein@comcast.net.

Parks and Recreation fall brochure is online

AGAWAM - The Agawam Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure is now available for online viewing at agawam.ma.us.

Westfield State to host softball clinics

WESTFIELD - The Westfield State University softball team is sponsoring softball clinics for players in grades 8 thru 12 on Saturday, Sept. 28, and Saturday, Oct. 26.

The clinic schedule is: Saturday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for pitching, and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. for hitting, and Saturday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for fielding, and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. for hitting.

The cost for one session in a day for $70 or two sessions (same day) for $130.

To register, contact Lindsay Sawyer at lsawyer@westfield.ma.edu.

These clinics focus on the fundamentals, the mechanical process and mental aspects of being a winning player. We will energetically and enthusiastically work to maximize the skill development of every player while also fostering a love for the game. Respecting the game is integral to your daughter's success.

As the amount of campers dictate, players will be divided by age and ability; our primary focus will be on drills and skill work. We invite questions and want you to get the most out of your time with us. If you have a softball player in your family that wants to play in the state-of-the-art Woodward Center and work out like a collegiate athlete works out, then this clinic is for her. Sign up today.

Owls to host baseball prospect clinic

WESTFIELD - The Westfield State University coaching staff is sponsoring a baseball prospect clinic for high school aged players on Sunday, Oct. 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The format includes position specific instruction and skill evaluation in the morning followed by a modified game in the afternoon.

The cost is $90 per athlete and space is limited, deadline for registration is Oct. 6.

Contact Westfield State head baseball coach Nathan Bashaw at nbashaw@westfield.ma.edu or call 413-572-8155 for additional information or questions.

15th annual Mawaga Club Fall Trout Fishing Derby set for Oct. 20

AGAWAM - The 15th annual Mawaga Club Fall Trout Fishing Derby will take place on Sunday, Oct. 20 at 377 Adams St.

Fishing goes from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with breakfast starting at 7 a.m.

First place prize of $200 awarded to the largest trout, with $100 going to second place and other cash prizes to be awarded.

Breakfast and lunch will be available.

No limit on trout. This is a freshly stocked private trout pond.

No finished license needed.

Event is open to those of all ages.

A $15 donation is requested.

Please call Dave Dussault at 413-427-0846 with any questions.

SOCCER, from page 14

chances to score off Agawam's Becca Uschmann, who won her third game of the season. She made five saves for the Brownies.

Northampton's Rose Katz-Berger was busy in net and she stopped 15 Agawam shots.

The Brownies have improved to 3-2-1, and are 1-0-1 since struggling with two straight losses. They also tied Westfield 0-0 last Tuesday afternoon. There was a lot of offensive opportunities with Uschmann matching her counterpart with 15 saves.

The Brownies were scheduled to be in action on Wednesday against Central, and are next scheduled to play Friday afternoon at East Longmeadow. The Spartans have defeated Agawam in the tournament for the past two seasons.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Alexandria Steutzel shoots on goal in the first half. She was successful and helped Agawam tie the score 1-1.

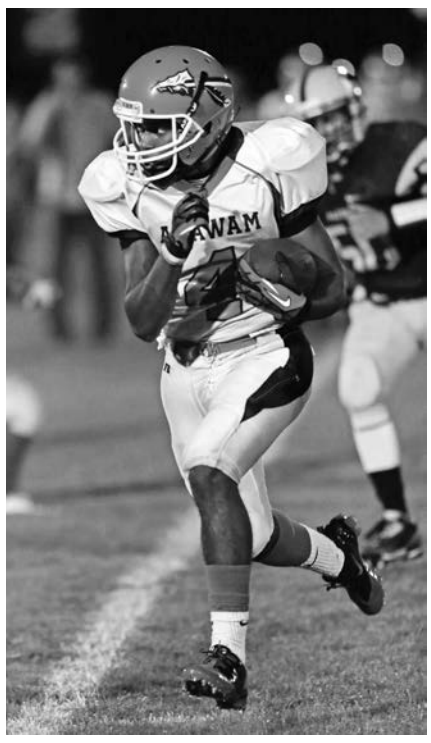
FOOTBALL, from page 14

Comee had three catches for 87 yards. Russo had 37 yards on eight carries.

For Chicopee, Campbell went 6-for-11 for 72 yards. Malone had three catches for 46 yards. Isaiah Green had 61 yards rushing on 14 carries.

Chicopee has a huge game Saturday at Chicopee Comp at 7 p.m. Agawam improved to 3-0 and has a bye this week.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Agawam running back Josh Debarros (4) takes a look up the field as he runs toward the sideline.

Agawam quarterback Mike Vecchiarelli (12) takes a look down the field as he prepares to pass.

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COLLEGE NEWS

Rackliffe earns third straight MASCAC Volleyball Rookie of the Week Honors

FRAMINGHAM – Framingham State freshman outside hitter and Feeding Hills resident Alycia Rackliffe has been selected the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Volleyball Rookie of the Week for the third straight week to open the 2013 season.

Rackliffe averaged 11.8 kills, two aces, three digs and 1.3 solo blocks per match in a 3-1 week for the Rams. She recorded 19 kills and seven digs in a four set win over Emmanuel and 10 kills apiece in a win over Salem State and a loss to Salve Regina. On the season Rackliffe is leading the Rams averaging 3.51 kills per set with a .356 attack percentage.

Wheeler helps out Bison on links

DUDLEY - Nichols men's golf junior and Agawam resident Kevin Wheeler did very well in two recent tournaments.

Wheeler finished tied for 11th at the Williams Invitational with a score of 152 (+10).

Wheeler also finished with a +9 79 at the 2013 Commonwealth Coast Conference qualifier.

SAFL standings

PeeWee

TEAM	W	L	T	PF	PA
Wilbraham	4	0	0	110	38
Agawam	3	1	0	116	72
Quabbin	2	1	0	44	44
Springfield	2	2	0	48	36
West Springfield	2	2	0	42	50
Amherst	1	3	0	70	88
Greenfield	1	3	0	12	48
Belchertown	0	3	0	2	68

Juniors

TEAM	W	L	T	PF	PA
Agawam	4	0	0	66	14
Belchertown	3	1	0	88	22
West Springfield	3	1	0	62	26
Wilbraham	3	1	0	74	38
Springfield	2	2	0	58	24
Quabbin	1	3	0	22	82
Amherst	0	4	0	8	88
Greenfield	0	4	0	8	92

Seniors

TEAM	W	L	T	PF	PA
Agawam	3	0	0	109	6
Quabbin	3	0	0	64	6
Wilbraham	3	1	0	104	43
Springfield	2	1	0	28	20
Belchertown	1	2	0	32	64
Amherst	1	3	0	42	120
West Springfield	0	3	0	12	66
Greenfield	0	3	0	0	66

ROUNDUP, from page 16

of 25-12, 25-22, 25-18.

Westfield had a very good run in the second set, but Agawam was able to come back and prevail at the end of the set to take home the victory.

Against Amherst last Wednesday, the Brownies saw their offense limited for the first time this season. Agawam was not able to get more than 18 points in a single set, and combined for just 46 points in the three set loss.

Agawam will be looking to keep their momentum going when they play this afternoon against Longmeadow at 6:15 p.m. The Brownies lost to Longmeadow in last year's semifinals.

In field hockey action, the Brownies were sent back under .500 as they dropped a tough matchup last Friday afternoon at Frontier in South Deerfield.

The Brownies trailed 1-0 at halftime and Maggie Belanger took a pass from Katherine Paltz and scored in the second half.

But Frontier also notched a second half goal off Jordyn Conway and Frontier captured the 2-1 victory. Gwen Thayer made eight saves for Frontier while Conway picked up seven saves.

The Brownies were coming off an astounding 11-0 drubbing of Pioneer Valley Regional before suffering the setback.

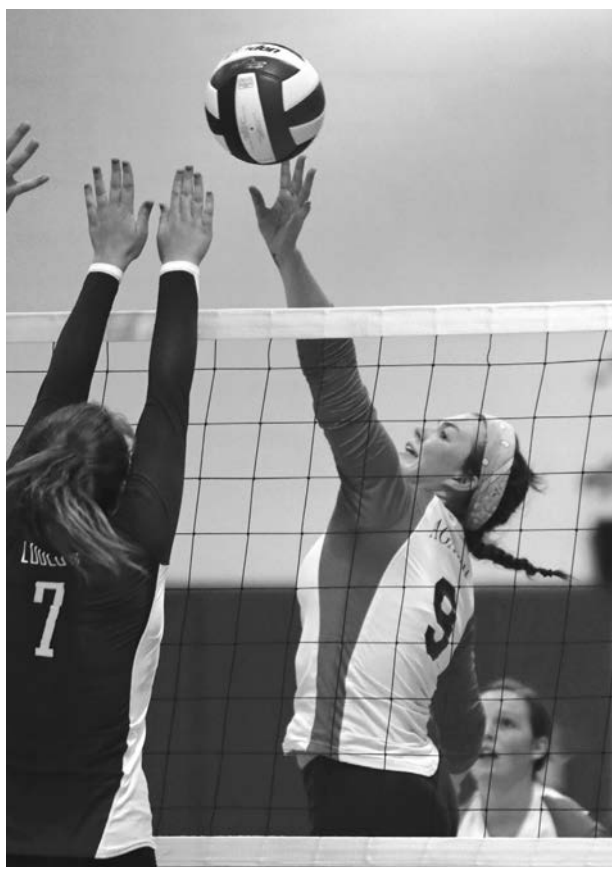
The loss dropped Agawam to 3-4 for the regular season. Agawam has struggled to pick up wins in their league before suffering the independent loss against Frontier. Offense against these tougher teams has been the biggest problem for the Brownies.

The Brownies have a tough week coming up, having games scheduled against Northampton and Smith Academy. The Brownies will host Mohawk at 4 p.m. Friday.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Agawam's Kate Moriarty (7) reaches down to play a shot.



Agawam's Mary-Kate Reidy (9) reaches up to tip the ball over the net.

GOLF CALENDAR

Agawam High School athletics to host 19th Annual Golf Tournament

AGAWAM - The Agawam High School Athletic Department invites the public to participate in its 19th annual golf tournament to be held Saturday, Sept. 28, beginning at noon at Oak Ridge Country Club.

The purpose of this tournament is to raise money to help support the athletes and coaches of the Agawam High School programs. Student athletes do not pay fees at Agawam high school as some do in other communities. Please join us for an enjoyable day and support a good cause.

The tournament cost is $85 and includes 18 holes of golf with a cart and dinner at Oak Ridge. Registration is begins at 12 p.m. and tee-off is at 12:30 p.m. Prizes will include Closest to the Pin - Men/Women and Winning Teams – Men/Mixed/Women.

If you would like to participate as a golfer or tee sponsor ($50) or donate a raffle prize, please contact Dave Stratton in the Athletic Office at 413-821-0529 or at dstratton@agawampublicschools.org.

To get your organization's golf tournament placed in the paper, contact Sports Editor Dave Forbes at 413-283-8393 ext. 237 or send an email to dforbes@turley.com.

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Obituaries & Church News

DEATH NOTICES & SERVICES

Alves, Avelino A.
Died Sept. 22, 2013
Private Services
Agawam Funeral Home

Brown, Pauline M. Exford
Died Sept. 9, 2013
Memorial and Burial
Sept. 20, 2013
Hillcrest Park Cemetery

Meagher, Judith A.
Died Sept. 10, 2013
Funeral Sept. 16, 2013
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

McCarthy, John C.
Died Sept. 21, 2013
Funeral Sept. 28, 2013
Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home
Holyoke

Senecal, Valerie A.
Died Sept. 16, 2013
Private Burial
Firtion-Adams Funeral Home
Westfield

Community Newspapers
Alive & Well!

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing $50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.
Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

News, upcoming events at Agawam Congregational

The public is invited to attend the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., "a place to call home - a people to call family." Worship service is Sundays at 10 a.m. with a children's message, church school and fellowship with coffee hour following.

Oct. 6 is Family Community Sunday with church school and coffee and fellowship following the 10 a.m. service. A special "Neighbors in Need" collection will be taken. Youth Group meets at 6:30 p.m.

Playgroup meets every Thursday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and follows the Agawam school calendar for holidays and school vacations.

Oct. 13 is the Columbus Day worship service with church school and coffee hour. Church office is closed Monday, Oct. 14.

Men's Ministry meets Saturday, Oct. 19 at 7:30 a.m. at Bobby J'z in Agawam.

A chicken and biscuit supper will be held Saturday, Oct. 19 at 5:30 p.m. Get your tickets in advance for the $12 adult ticket price. Tickets are on sale every Sunday and in the church office Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until noon. Tickets at the door are $15 for adults. Children are $6 each.

The Youth Group will host its annual Baked Potato Social after church on Sunday, Oct. 20.

Loaves and Fishes meets Monday, Oct. 21.

The Sunday, Oct. 10 worship service will feature the praise team singing during the prelude. The church Halloween party will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. The public is invited to join for games, crafts, a costume parade and prizes. The Men's Ministry will host a barbeque. Sign-up at Bryan Hall.

Women's Ministry meets Monday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Friendship Room.

Newspaper collation will take place Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 9 a.m.

A "Cat's Meow" keepsake of the church is available for purchase. This church fundraiser is six inches tall with a picture of the church and its history on the back. Stop by the church office during business hours or purchase yours on Sunday at coffee hour.

Pastor Earl and his wife Barbara are always available for prayer after the service. Newcomers are welcome and members of the community are invited to participate in all church events. For more information, call the church office at 786-7111. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until noon.

Chicken supper seet for Oct. 19

The Agawam Congregational Church will host a chicken and biscuit supper, Saturday, Oct. 19 at 5:30 p.m. The menu will include chicken, biscuit and gravy, salad, green beans, cranberry sauce, butternut squash, rolls and butter, coffee, tea, and homemade apple crisp. Advance tickets are available and encouraged for this popular event. Cost is $12 in advance for adults; $6 for children. Tickets will be available at the door for $15 for adults and $6 for children.

Catholic Women announce upcoming events

Tuesday, Oct. 15: Living Rosary Meeting, 6 p.m. in the church. Following the Rosary, Father Pomerleau will speak on Brother Andre. New members and guests are welcome.

Thursday, Oct. 17: Fashion Show featuring "The Little Black Dress" will be held in the

Parish Center at 7:45 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit needy families of Agawam. Tickets are now on sale for $14. For information or tickets, contact Paula Raiche.

Monday, Nov. 11: Catholic Women's Club meeting is the Communion Supper. Mass is at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at Storrowton Restaurant at 7:15 p.m. The guest speaker is Sal Cirosta of Sal's Bakery and Café in Springfield. His talk highlight a book titled, "The Privilege of Being a Woman" written by a Catholic author Alice Von Hildebrand. For information and reservations, contact Sheryl at (413) 219-6923.

Saturday, Nov. 23: Annual Holiday Bazaar will be held in the Parish Center from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. White elephant donations, as well as toys, books, and jewelry may be brought to the Parish Center Oct. 21 through Nov. 14. The Parish Center is closed on Fridays.

Married couples invited to 'Date Night'

Sacred Heart Church will host a Catholic Date Night for married couples Friday, Oct. 18 with Ray and Beth Ginepro and Deacon Jim and Mary Conroy as facilitators. The public is invited to renew romance, enrich their marriage and have some fun.

This program will be held on the third Friday of the month this fall at the Sacred Heart Parish Center from 7 to 9:15 p.m. Registration is $5 per couple, per evening. To register, send name, phone number and anniversary date with a $5 check payable to Sacred Heart Church and mail to Sacred Heart Church, 1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 Attn: Jean.

For more information, call Jean at 786-8200 ext. 16.

Adult education session scheduled

WEST SPRINGFIELD - First Congregational UCC, 20 Lathrop St., West Springfield will offer a four session learning opportunity for adults beginning Sunday, Sept. 29. Jan Powers, pastor and teacher, has chosen the book "Messy Spirituality" by Mike Yaconelli to read and discuss with a small group. "Messy Spirituality" is a humorous and honest account of Yaconelli's journey of faith and ministry that is both accessible and entertaining.

The four sessions will take place on two Sunday mornings following the 10 a.m. worship service and on two Friday evenings: Sunday, Sept. 28, 11:15 a.m.; Friday, Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 10, 11:15 a.m.; and Friday, Nov. 22, 6:30 p.m. It is open to all adults. The book will be available on Sunday and is free if it is returned when the series ends. It may also be purchased for $10.

First Church offers faith formation for all ages, from the youngest "M&M Minis" to youth and adults seeking to grow in Jesus' mission and ministry. For more information, call 739-6608, or visit www.firstchurchws.org.

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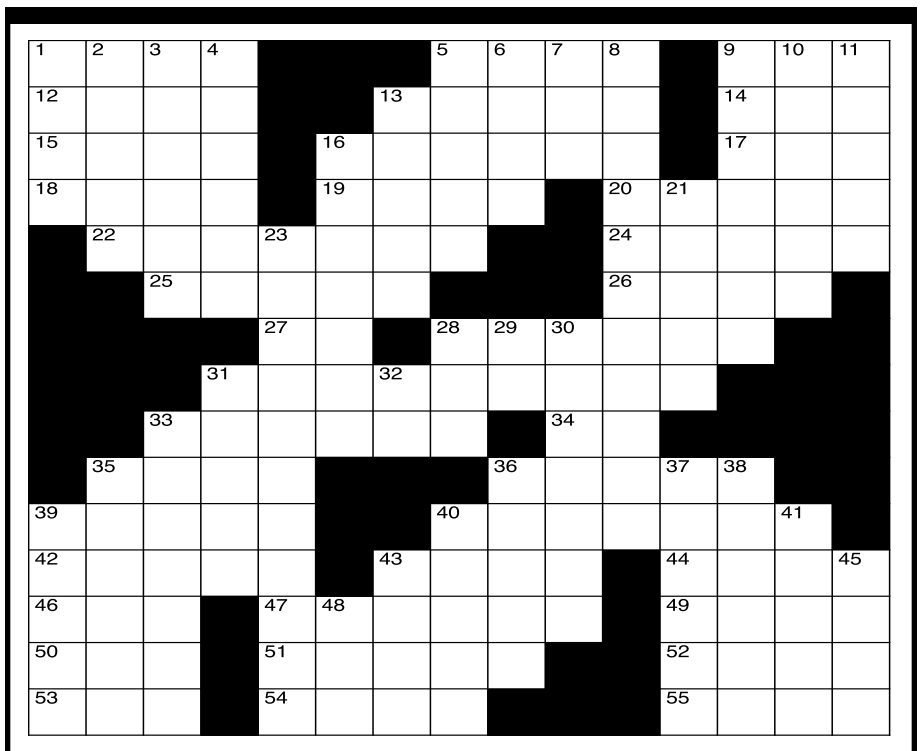

CLUES ACROSS
1. Cape near Lisbon
5. Chew the fat
9. Time of the 90th meridian
12. 1982 planned city in Israel
13. Vehicle carrying passengers
14. Expression of surprise
15. Long range nuclear weapon
16. 2nd largest Muslim denomination
17. Mad Men's Draper
18. Spanish artist Salvador
19. S.F. murdered mayor
20. Baby talk fathers
22. Religious discourse
24. Poet Dickinson
25. Emblem stamps
26. Competes
27. 40th state
28. Expects
31. In an ageless way
33. A person in religious orders
34. Pa's partner
35. Two considered as a unit
36. NE 68770
39. Duple time dance
40. Greek myth's 1st woman
42. Word element meaning right
43. Point that is one point E of SE
44. Common teen skin disease
46. 4th Caliph of Islam
47. Oblong cream puff
49. Phoned
50. Very low frequency
51. Guild Wars
52. Cozy
53. Hooray!
54. Work units
55. Soft-finned fishes

CLUES DOWN
1. Foray
2. Killer whales
3. Television systems
4. Marvel at
5. Connected spirals
6. Moroccan outer garment
7. Play a role
8. ____ Daniel Webster
9. Golf attendants
10. Large school of fish
11. Tanacetum vulgare
13. Lower jaw fronts
16. Burn without a flame
21. Cordiality
23. PBS drama
28. Mandela's party
29. 42nd state
30. One who distributes alms
31. 20th C. playwright T.S.
32. Smallest state
33. Turn into lime
35. Spanish seafood dish
36. Language synonym Bura
37. Large-grained or rough to the touch
38. Understood by only a few
39. Thickened meat juices
40. Anjou and bartlett
41. Declare invalid
43. Molten metals surface scum
45. Bird reproductive bodies
48. Chronicles (abbr.)

Answers on page 19

Business

Mexican restaurant now open in Feeding Hills

By Sarah Platanitis
Turley Publications Correspondent

Susana Torres opened her new restaurant El Forestero in Feeding Hills this July. Not only has she fulfilled a long-time dream but she also has introduced new traditional Mexican food to a community very happy to embrace it.

After looking around at different places for her new restaurant, she decided to open the restaurant in Feeding Hills because she saw a need for it.

"We noticed that there were no authentic Mexican restaurants around here and we thought that it would be a good idea. It's new food but good food we know that our customers will love it," she said.

Torres, originally from Mexico City, has lived in Connecticut for over two decades. She ran a restaurant with her brother in Willimantic for many years. Wanting to branch out on her own, she decided to open up her own place with business partner and longtime chef, Amador Michaca.

"The name El Forastero means a man who comes into town after traveling from far away. We thought it would be a good name for [us] because nobody would know who we are," she kidded.

The menu features a variety of appetizers that include fresh guacamole, nachos and tamales, plus salads, steak and chicken selections. The jumbo 12-inch burritos have been all the rage with seven lucky choices to pick, from a tried-and-true burrito supreme to a Cajun burrito with jambalaya rice, black beans and cactus.

Lunchtime favorites are fajitas with sizzling marinated strips of steak or chicken topped with sautéed onions and peppers for $13.95. Taco salads are served in a flour shell tortilla with fresh mixed greens, jalapenos, red onions, tomatoes, salsa, sour cream, cheese and choice of beef or chicken for $9.95.

"We make most everything from scratch so we can tell everything in it. We keep food fresh and have delicious specials for people to try something new," said Torres, sharing that she plans to go an extra step further and buying her vegetables from local farms in Agawam and Feeding Hills.

Seafood and antiojito Mexicanos, or traditional dishes, that include soups are done well.

Popular traditional dinner dishes are tampiquenas, a grilled steak with cambry onion, cactus and jalapeno, for $16.50 and bistec con nopales, a savory steak served with onion and cactus in a spicy chipotle sauce, for $16.25.

Customer favorites have been arroz con pollo (chicken and rice) for $12.50, enchiladas poblanas (three stuffed chicken, beef or cheese tortillas topped with mole sauce and melted cheese) for $12.50.

Desserts are the delicious arroz con leche, deep fried ice cream and a special flan recipe from Torres' family. Sweet drinks like Mexican sodas, horchata (a celebrated cinnamon rice drink), coladas and smoothies are also available. Guests can bring their own wine and beer.

We also do take out and catering for people who want to bring the restaurant to where they live. They can choose whatever they want and make an order for 10 people or more," said Torres.

The restaurant has tables for sit down meals as well as a space upstairs for small gatherings of 12 to 20 people. The unisex bathroom is handicap accessible.

"I think the people should come and try it because I think they will like it. Our customers leave full and very happy," she said.

Business hours are Sunday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

El Forastero is located at 360 North Westfield St. in Feeding Hills. For more information, call 413-455-3297.

Turley Publications photo by Sarah Platanitis
El Forestero opened on North Westfield Street in July.

Turnpike E-Z Passes available through AAA

WEST SPRINGFIELD — E-Z Pass transponders for the Massachusetts Turnpike are now available to AAA members at AAA Pioneer Valley offices in West Springfield, Springfield, Hadley and Greenfield.

Anyone currently driving with an E-Z Pass special orange program transponder for use at exits 1-6 only will need to change their transponder and open a private individual account as the program will be eliminated and orange transponders will no longer function after Oct. 15.

Those AAA members needing to change their orange transponder for use both in state and out of state can do so at the AAA Pioneer Valley office. Drivers who have never had a transponder may also obtain one at AAA (new accounts only).

Non-AAA members may obtain a transponder by visiting MassDOT customer service centers, at select Registry of Motor Vehicles branches or by joining online at www.massdot.state.ma.us.

Legal Notices

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TOWN OF AGAWAM
PLANNING BOARD

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 7:00 PM** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of 194 South Street Limited Partnership for a zone change request on 94 & 0 South Street from Residence A-5 to Residence A-6. Copies of the proposed zone change can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF:
Travis P. Ward, Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
9/19,9/26/13

LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
AGAWAM
CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, October 21, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.** at the Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Request for a Gas Storage License at the Property located at 835-841 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA. 01001, as submitted by Cumberland Farms, Inc., whose business address is 100 Crossing Boulevard, Framingham, MA 01702. The Gas Storage License request is to amend an existing license dated October 7, 1983 at the same location. A copy of the proposed Gas Storage License can be obtained from the Agawam Town Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF:
Christopher C. Johnson
City Council President
9/26,10/3/13

LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
AGAWAM
CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, October 21, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.** at the Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Petition of 194 South Street Limited Partnership as submitted by Mark E. Benoit c/o Atlantic Capital Investors, Inc. 983 Page Boulevard, Springfield, MA, as prepared by Sherman & Frydryk Land Surveying & Engineering for a proposed Zone Change Plan for land located at 194 and 0 South Street (Parcel ID J4-1-18 and J4-1-21. The Zone Change request is to change the parcel(s) from Residence A-5 to Residence A-6. A copy of the proposed Zone Change can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office or the Agawam City Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. in the Agawam City Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF:
Christopher C. Johnson
City Council President
9/26,10/3/13

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

SOME THINGS NEVER GET OLD

Whether it's local businesses advertising their products and services, local calendars full of things to do, a press release about a promotion or school and town hall news- community newspapers are the only medium to publish items that are important to you.

As a publisher and printer for over 50 years, Turley Publications, Inc. remains committed to our community newspapers as well as the towns and people we serve.

So no matter what the daily papers are going through - community newspapers thrive because of their unique local content. We'll never grow old of this long-standing tradition.

Turley Publications, Inc.

We are the local news you come home to.

Families

Parents invited to share, laugh, learn at upcoming 'cafés'

The Agawam Family & Community Program will continue its Fall Parent Cafés on the following dates. The purpose of the program is to provide area parents the opportunity to connect with other parents in round table discussions where they can share ideas, learn about community resources, obtain new ideas, and share laughs about parenting. Free coffee, tea and refreshments will be provided.

Café 2: Diffusing Power Struggles - Tuesday, Oct. 29, 9:30-11 a.m. or 6:30-8 p.m. Join Peggy Hoime, family coach, certified parenting educator and Abundance Intelligence leader, to discuss why power struggles occur, what to do when you are in the midst of one and prevention tips.

Café 3: Holiday Survival - Tuesday, Nov. 26, 9:30-11 a.m. or 6:30-8 p.m. Come share and learn tricks to not only survive but enjoy the holiday season with your children.

Morning sessions will be held at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. Evening sessions will be held at the Agawam Senior Center dining room, 954 Main St. Parking for both sessions is behind the buildings with rear door entrance.

Funding is provided by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant and Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC). Registration for each café is required. Contact Michelle Connery, outreach coordinator, at 821-0597 or visit agawamfamilyandcommunityprog@yahoo.com.

KIWANIS MEMBER FETED

Turley Publications courtesy photo

The Kiwanis Club of West Springfield and Agawam held its annual induction and awards night Sept. 11 at the Dante Club in West Springfield. Kay Buoniconti, center, of West Springfield was awarded the Legion of Honor Certificate for 25 years of membership and service in the Kiwanis Club. Presenting the award is Kiwanis New England District Governor-Designate, George Delisle, right, and Robin Parent, president.

LAURA VENTRESCA WEDS MARC BALBONI

Turley Publications courtesy photo

Mr. & Mrs. Marc Anthony Balboni

Laura Ventresca and Marc Anthony Balboni were married June 1, 2013.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Berardino Ventresca, of Pittsfield. A graduate of Pittsfield High School and Berkshire Community College, she is a registered nurse at Holyoke Medical Center.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Balboni, of West Springfield. A graduate of Suffield Academy and Westfield State University, he is the son of a fourth generation Italian family to own and operate Balboni's Bakery, the 100-year-old family business in Agawam.

Following a reception at the Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow, the couple departed for a honeymoon in Costa Rica.

They couple resides in West Springfield.

Pumpkin Fair to benefit Shriners Hospitals

Daughters of the Nile 84 will hold their Annual Pumpkin Fair Saturday, Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, 21 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills. Proceeds from the fair will benefit the children of Shriners Hospitals.

Daughters of the Nile is an international fraternal organization for women 18 years of older who are related by birth or marriage to a Shrinter, Master Mason, or Daughter of the Nile or is a majority member in good standing of a Masonic-related organization for girls. Daughters of the Nile maintain two permanent endowment funds to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children.

The craft fair will feature pumpkin painting, kids' crafts, face paining, holiday decorations and handcrafted items for sale, and more. A light lunch will be on sale from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will also be a theme baskets raffle, with tickets available for $1 for one or six for $5. All baskets are valued at a minimum of $50. Drawings will take place and 3 p.m. and winners need not be present to win.

St. Pat's Committee to host membership drive

The Agawam St. Patrick's Day Committee will host a "Homecoming Tea and Membership Drive," Monday, Oct. 7 from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center.

The cost for membership is $20, single and $30 per family.

The public is invited to attend for information and enjoy refreshments and Irish music. Driveway shamrocks are also available at a cost of $25.

Committee members will be at the senior center at lunchtime to greet and welcome attendees.

People of All Ages
Read Newpapers

In a typical week two-thirds of young adults age 18-34 read newspapers in print or online. Especially given the fragmentation of other media, newspaper advertising is the best way for advertisers to reach a critical mass of young people in a market.

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Classifieds

Turley Publications' Community Marketplace ✦ www.turley.com ✦ Call us toll free at 1-800-824-6548

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ANTIQUE AND PERIOD chairs – Restored with new woven seats – Many styles and weaves available. Call **(413)267-9680.**

MATTRESS CLEARANCE 50%-70% OFF RETAIL Queen Sets from $150, King from $275, Full $145, $40 Down Take it Home Today! www.mattressmandan.com or **413-977-6144**

SNOW TIRES- BLIZZAK 215/60 R1695T on steel Camry rims, 4 for $400. Used 2 seasons. **(413)687-3163**

Estate Sale

HUGE MAN CAVE sale. Truck, boat, trailer, flyfishing, tools, auto body, wood working items, housewares, Hydes, siding, lawn mower. Great guy stuff. Sept. 27/28/29, 7am- 5pm. Great Deals. 5 Fontaine St., Ludlow

Tag Sale

FURNITURE, HOME DECORATIONS, kitchen items, small appliances, books and more. Sat & Sun 9/28-29, 8am-4pm 19 Circle View Drive, Hampden

MULTI FAMILY, LUDLOW, 98 Karen Drive. Sat. Sept. 28th, 8-3. Toys, games, books, clothes, home decor, small furniture, household items, Fall and Christmas, lots of stuff.

MULTI-FAMILY ESTATE. 17 Sequoia Dr Feeding Hills Fri-Sun, Sept 27-29, 9-3. Rain date Oct 4-6. Furniture, Vintage Items, Old Tools, bedding, household, books, coats, clothing. Much more. If you want it, we probably have it.

Antiques

EASY STREET ANTIQUES. Buying one item or entire estates. Free house calls. Buying antique & vintage glassware, pottery, Hummels, jewelry, coins, watches, military, toys, Legos, hunting, fishing, stringed instruments, books, tools, & more. Call today. www.ezstreetantiques.com or **(413)626-8603.**

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Firewood

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Flea Market

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Free

FREE- 20 BURGUNDY COLORED choir robes and liturgical sheet music call **413-533-9647** if interested.

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The deadline for Classified Line Advertising is Friday at Noon

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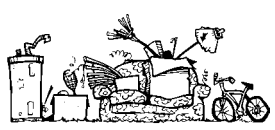

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Classifieds

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Complete carpentry, drywall and painting services. For all your home improvement needs.
Kitchens, baths, finished basements and more!
Joe's GC-License #CS093368.
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Instruction

GC/BUILDER'S LICENSE COURSE * * Register by September 27h. Class begins September 30- October 3 for Ludlow, Worcester, Pittsfield, Northampton, Greenfield * * Call CCI **1-888-833-5207** or www.statecertification.com

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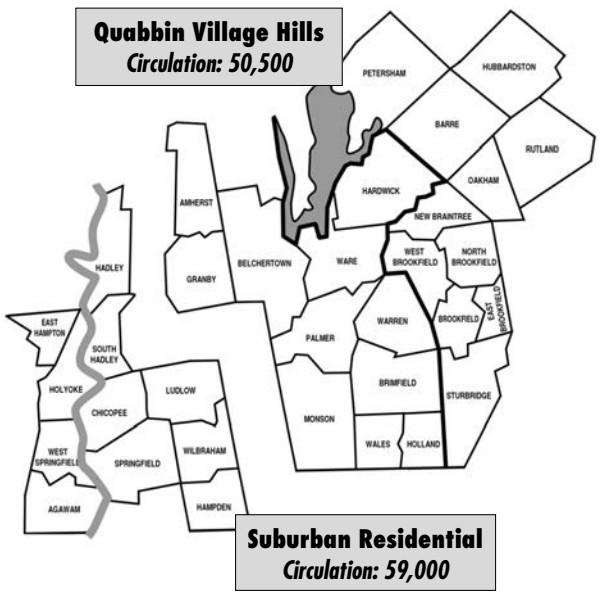

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WARREN – Heritage Park, two bedroom Mobil with handicap accessible master suite. Three season room, private deck area, pantry closet. $36,900

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NEW - WARE: Country split on 1.45 acres, two bedroom, finished lower level, bank owned but worth the effort. $149,900

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For Rent

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LUDLOW FOR RENT. 3 1/2 rm. apartment, stove & refridge included. No pets, no smoking. $450/ mo Call **413-583-6896.**

LUDLOW- DUPLEX- 4 ROOM, 1 bath, stove, & fridge incl., no pets/smoking, $800 mo. 1st, last & sec. dep. **413-896-6353**

MONSON RARE 3 BR apt. in quiet convenient location Large Kitchen with dishwasher and newish stove and frig. W/D Hook-up and storage in basement. 2 parking spaces. No pets. Available immediately. 1st and last. $850. **(413)548-8156**

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PALMER THREE RIVERS. Country Manor apartments, 1 bdrm $630, 2 bdrm, $730 month. All units renov. w/disposal, dishwashers, microwave, elec. range, carpets. Parking, fishing and playground. Cats okay. Call **(413)283-9472.**

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PALMER/ THREE RIVERS AREA 3 BR, just remodeled. $900/mo + utilities. **ALSO, nice one bedroom apartment** $625 **(413)896-2513** messages. Good location. Deposits. No pets.

THREE RIVERS 2 BD duplex, appliance included. Nice area. **(413)589-9934**

THREE RIVERS/ PALMER Cozy 5 room house, move-in condition. Convenient location, w/d hook-up $925 plus utilities. Deposits. NO PETS! **(413)896-2513**

TWO BEDROOM, 1.5 bath townhouse - Ludlow, MA: Central Vacuum, tile/hardwood floors, central AC, gas furnace, 2 parking spaces, finished basement, washer/dryer hookup. Separate utilities No pets/smoking. First, Last, Security. $900/month **413-348-8814**

For Rent

WARE 3 BR, 6 RM, energy efficient duplex. Convenient location, quiet, appliances included, w/d hook-up, driveway, deposits $750 **(413)289-1405, (413)525-5309.**

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WARE SUBSIDIZED NEWLY remodeled 2 Bdrm, garden style. No pets. First and last; off-street parking, coin-op laundry. Call **(413)323-8707.**

WILBRAHAM DUPLEX 2 BR, off-street parking, appliances, $725. No utilities. New furnace. No pets. No smoking. **(413)583-6488.**

Commercial Rentals

PALMER- 2000 SQ FT- High Visibility Area- 2 Bays- Showroom/ Office/ Storage- Remodeled- $2500/ month- Breton Realty- **413-283-6940**

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VERY RARE 1987 Hydrostream Voyager 21' open bow, 230HP I/O with trailer & ski equipment. Good condition $3,500.00 **(413)209-6879**.

Campers

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Saturday, Sept. 28

AGAWAM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S fourth annual Apple Pie Contest will take place from 1-4 p.m. at the Thomas Smith House, 251 North West St., Feeding Hills. For contest registration, contact Judy at 786-6315 before Monday, Sept. 23. Entries are limited. For more information, visit thethomassmithhouse.com.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will participate today in the Smithsonian Museum magazine's "Museum Day Live!" - an annual event in which participating museums allow free admission to anyone presenting a Museum Day ticket. Each ticket allows free admission for two people. For more information, visit www.springfield-museums.org or call (413) 263-6800.

THE HOLYOKE MERRY-GO-ROUND is open Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. Rides are just $2 per person/per ride with several specials available. For more information, call (413) 538-9838 or visit www.holyokemerrygoround.org.

Sunday, Sept. 29

SACRED HEART CHURCH on Chestnut Street in Springfield will hold its annual Oktoberfest picnic from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot behind the church. American and German food and drinks will be available throughout the day. The public is invited. For more information and to purchase raffle tickets, call the rectory at (413) 732-3721.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host a "mini tour" at 1 p.m., led by John Weiss, Wood Museum of Springfield History, highlighting "Everett Barney and his role in Forest Park." The tour is free with museum admission and secure, free onsite parking is available.

Tuesday, Oct. 1

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the library. No registration is necessary.

THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER will host a free movie at 12:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature Sarah Briggs on violin, Carol Hutter on viola, Mark Frasier on cello and Monica Jakuc Leverett on piano at 10:30 a.m. Free refreshments are provided after the performances. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin at virgo9654@aol.com or Ed Dibble at eddibble155@comcast.net John Karalekas.

Thursday, Oct 3

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver, meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30 – 11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "Mexico City and Surrounds: Art and Culture, Past and Present, Traditional and Modern" featuring Amy S. Dane, avid traveler and docent at 12:15 p.m. in the Museum of Fine Arts, 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is $4 ($2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800 ext. 488.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL'S Applause Series continues Friday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. with "A Time to Laugh, A Time to Weep" at the Agawam Senior Center. The Agawam Senior Center is located at 954 Main St. and can be reached by phone at (413) 821-0604. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

A HARVEST FESTIVAL will be held at Main Street Deli and Hidden Treasures in Agawam Friday, Oct. 4 through Sunday, Oct. 6 with proceeds to benefit two area women. The events will include a craft beer and wine tasting, craft and vendor fair, Princess House product table, psychic readings, raffles, and more. For more information on the festival, visit mainstreet-deli.com

THE SPRINGFIELD SCIENCE MUSEUM'S large rooftop telescope will be open for public sky-gazing on Friday, Oct. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $3 for adults; $2 for children 17 and under. The museum is located at the Quadrangle at 21 Edwards St., off Chestnut Street. Free parking available in the Edwards Street lots. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 318.

A FALL FUN FESTIVAL will be held Saturday, Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills (next to the Agawam Police Station). In addition to face painting, a bake sale, pumpkin painting and a craft fair, pony rides will be available from noon to 1 p.m. for $2. Homemade soups and sandwiches, as well as coffee, cider hot chocolate and donuts will be available.

COMMUNITY GRANGE 382 OF FEEDING HILLS will hold a Polish Supper Saturday, Oct. 5 at the Grange Hall, 47 North West St. in Feeding Hills, with continuous servings from 4:30 – 7 p.m. Donation is $10 for adults and $5 for children under 12. Reservations are suggested and may be made by calling Pauline at 789-2061. Proceeds from the supper will benefit the building fund.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will hold a blood drive at Active Lifestyle Fitness, 168 Elm St., Agawam Sunday, Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. All presenting donors in October will be eligible to win a $200 gift card, courtesy of Suburban Propane. Prizes are non-transferrable and not redeemable for cash. To make an appointment, call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org.

A CARD, COIN AND MEMORABILIA SHOW will be held Sunday, Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, 580 Meadow St. Admission is $1; kids under 10 are free. There will be over 40 tables, a door prize drawing every 30 minutes, and the club is handicap accessible. For more information, call (413) 593-6046.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host a "mini tour" Sunday, Oct. 6 at 1 p.m., led by Dawn Whitney, George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum, highlighting "Victorian Japan Craze." The tour is free with museum admission and secure, free onsite parking is available.

AGAWAM PARANORMAL returns to the Agawam Public library to present Ghostology 301: Local Lore, Monday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. Included in this event will be Storrowton Tavern and Josiah Day House, in West Springfield, and the Thomas Smith House in Feeding Hills. Seating is limited. Advance registration is a must. To reserve a space, call 789-1550 ext. 4 or visit www.agawamlibrary.org.

FITNESS FIRST HEALTH & FITNESS CENTER, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center, Wednesday, Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. A driver's license with photo or state identification with photo is required to donate blood. All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 years or older. To make an appointment, call (413) 786-1460.

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper Wednesday, Oct. 9 at a cost of $7 for adults, $4 for children. The public is welcome.

A RUMMAGE SALE will be held Friday, Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield. A $6 bag day will be held Saturday, Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. to noon. Proceeds are used for various mission and outreach projects. For more information, call the office at (413) 737-5311 or Peg Commisso at (413) 525-2719.

HISTORIC TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield will hold its Fall Arts and Crafts Festival Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. featuring the work of over 30 community vendors plus the Kitchen Cupboard with homemade baked goods and goodies. Admission is free. All proceeds to benefit Trinity United Methodist Church.

AUTHORTALK WITH KAREN VORBECK-WILLIAMS, author of the local historical novel, "My Enemy's Tears: The Witch of Northampton," will take place Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. began. Sign up by calling 789-1550 ext 4, or online at www.agawamlibrary.org. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

ADULT DROP-IN YOGA at the library will begin Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. and continue through May. The beginner classes will meet on the last Tuesday of the month (with the exception of Dec. 17) at 7 p.m. Anyone 18 and older is welcome; bring a yoga mat. No registration is necessary. For more information on Second Wind Yoga, visit www.secondwindyoga.com.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at (888) 613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

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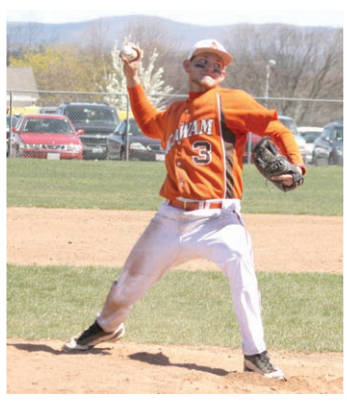

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